

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, COPTHORNE

England & Wales · Charity number 1155185

Details

Other names ST JOHNS COPTHORNE

Status Registered

Legal form Previously excepted

Registered 2014-01-06

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

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Activities

Objects: PROMOTING IN THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH THE WHOLE MISSION OF THE CHURCH.

Activities: Worship and prayer; Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish; Missionary and outreach work;Sponsoring and promoting the Copthorne Magazine

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- West Sussex

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£167,096	£178,802	-	-
2024-12-31	£203,085	£185,908	-	-
2023-12-31	£178,328	£178,731	-	-
2022-12-31	£178,728	£179,095	-	-
2021-12-31	£170,154	£163,337	-	-
2020-12-31	£178,244	£147,261	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Anita Findon		2024-03-18
David Hornsby		2014-04-06
Eddie Redfern		2015-03-22
Eric Peter Trevett BA		2019-03-24
IAN DAVID HORNSBY		2013-12-18
Jean Ditchburn		2025-04-06
Jennifer Elizabeth Wharton		2022-03-29
John Francis Wells		2022-03-29
Jon Brueton		2024-03-19
Kerry Scott		2023-03-18
LESLEY JANET DAWSON		2013-12-18
Lizzie Jakeman		2025-04-06
MR ANDY HARPHAM B.ENG C.ENG		2013-12-18
MR MIKE LIVESEY		2013-12-18
MRS SUE WILLIAMS		2013-12-18
Maralyn Smith		2023-05-30
NIGEL CRAMP BSC		2021-04-20
Rev Alexandra Wheeler		2019-03-31
Rev Elizabeth Logan		2022-03-18
Rev Fiona Coldicott		2023-03-18
Wim Mauritz		2018-08-01
Zoe McCann		2025-04-06

Accounts



GROWING IN LOVE for God & each other



(Alpha - Small Group Discussion, Sept 2025)

Annual Parochial Church Reports 2025

Charity Number 1155185



Annual Vestry & Parochial Church Meeting to be held in Church on 12th April 2026 from 11.30am

Agenda

Annual Vestry Meeting

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Annual Parochial Church Meeting

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Questions arising from the Reports

Appointment of Treasurer & Secretary

Appointment of Safeguarding Officer

Election of PCC members

(at Copthorne, for the sake of continuity, if not otherwise elected, the PCC Secretary & Treasurer are co-opted positions)

Appointment of Sidespersons

Appointment of Independent Examiner

Any Other Business

**Copy of the record of the Minutes of
The Annual Vestry Meeting
held in the Church at 11.25am
Sunday 6th April 2025**

The meeting was conducted by Wim Mauritz (Vicar) in the presence of 81 parishioners.

The Minutes of the Vestry Meeting of Tuesday 19th March 2024 were unanimously approved. Proposer: Mike Livesey, Seconder: Kerry Scott.

Mr David Hornsby (proposed by Jean Ditchburn and seconded by Paul Simmons) and Mr Eddie Redfern (proposed by Nigel Cramp and seconded by Sue Williams) were unanimously elected as there were no other nominations and duly appointed Churchwardens for the coming year.

As David had already served six consecutive years, a resolution was passed under section 3 (3) of the Churchwardens Measure 2002 to waive the six-year term limit. This permitted his re-election beyond the usual term.

Wim thanked Gillian Hodsdon who stood down as Churchwarden for all her hard work over the years. Wim also thanked David for his service and support over the past year.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 11.40am.

**Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Held on Sunday 6th April 2025
At 11.40am in the Church**

Attendance:

The meeting was conducted by Wim Mauritz (Vicar) and attended by 81 parishioners.

Apologies:

Received from: Elizabeth Comber, Andy Harpham, Gillian Hodsdon, and Maggie Prior

MINUTES:

Formal business:

Apologies as noted were accepted.

Sandra mentioned that at last year's APCM the congregation raised the issue of the parish magazine costs and is disappointed that there was no feedback at all on this during the year. Wim apologized and assured Sandra that it was discussed. Kerry explained that a number of options were considered including discontinuing the magazine, which was deemed unacceptable. Paper quality – and thus cost – was reduced during the year. Costs for this year will be less than last year. Sandra thanked Kerry for the information and stressed that the issue is about poor communication. People are less likely to donate money when asked if they are not aware of all the work going on behind the scenes. Sandra also mentioned that people are not made aware of the things that are discussed at PCC meetings and that the minutes should be made available. David agreed and promised to look at putting feedback from PCC meetings in the weekly newsletter. Wim

mentioned that the PCC minutes can be accessed for transparency on request to the church office. Maralyn mentioned that the church office had put together projected income and expenditure for the year with a view to ensuring that magazine costs are at least covered this year. Sandra further mentioned the Have Your Say Survey commenting that no feedback was given to respondents. Maralyn stated that this was led by Andrew Taylor and after he sadly died this project was not continued.

Proposal: That the Minutes of the APCM 2024 be accepted.

Proposed: Nigel Cramp

Seconded: Mike Livesey

Unanimously agreed.

Matters Arising from the 2024 minutes.

Wim stated that he had taken on the feedback about last year's Good Friday service being described as a "fun service". Wim assured everyone that it was not a fun time – but a service appropriate for children. Most churches don't provide that, and the attendance was almost double. However, this year we will also have a more sober service with hymns in the morning. Wim noted that the request to have the APCM on a Sunday after church has been actioned.

Electoral Roll – It was unanimously agreed that the Roll of 121 members be accepted.

Proposed: Sandra Cramp

Seconded: John Wells

Questions arising from the Reports

Monica asked why the Building Report refers to the solar panels as temporary. John explained that solar panels are classed as temporary structures in terms of planning permission as they are erected on the roof – not part of the roof – and have a lifespan of 25-30 years and then need to be replaced.

Mike asked if the church had taken over the Lychgate Fund, if it is designated as separate and how it is managed. Kerry confirmed the Church took in just over £3,000 and it is a restricted fund, so the money can only be used for the lychgate repairs. Some fundraising last year raised around £1,300 and since then some smaller amounts have come in. Monica is the lead person, and Gwyn Cheesemur has generously given help to the PCC. David stated that the boards have been removed for renovation and work should be completed in May/June. Monica advised that further work cannot begin until all the funding is available, but we have an offer of matched funding up to £3,000. Maralyn added that the Copthorne Locals Facebook group has adopted the lychgate as their charity for this quarter.

Richard asked for clarification of the tangible fixed assets in the accounts. Kerry stated that we applied for a grant of about £12,000 for air conditioning in The Hub. There was also a grant of about £25,000 for work on the car park. Both the air conditioning and the car park are reported in the accounts as tangible assets. The expenditure has increased the value of The Hub. The Statement of Financial Activities shows a significant surplus, this is larger than in reality because it doesn't include the capital expenditure on The Hub. A closer examination of the Balance Sheet shows we had a significant deficit on our cash flow during the year and our cash reserves, or current assets, were lower at the end of 2024 than 2023. The Church is asset rich but cash poor and was losing money every month. We need to generate about £10,000 more income than we did last year to sustain all our activities and projects in the future. Kerry encouraged everyone to see if they could spare a few pounds extra every month: it probably works out at about £10 per month for everyone. Kerry paid tribute to Mike for all his hard work; without The Hub income our financial position would be in jeopardy. The increase in expenditure was kept very low – 3-4%. This was mostly achieved through Nigel retiring - although he continues to be very much in evidence in the office.

Annual Report 2024

It was unanimously agreed that all reports – Trustees Annual Report; Financial Report and Accounts; Vicar; Pastoral; Church Wardens; Parish Office; Safeguarding; Mission, Evangelism and Discipleship; Coffee Bar, St John's Café & Games and Abstract Art Group; Choir; Ladies Ministry; Youth; Children; Toddler Time; cots2tots; The Parish Hub; Building Team; Social Events; Mission Partners(home and overseas); Deanery Synod; and Legal Documentation – as previously circulated, be accepted.

Proposed: John Wells
Seconded: Nigel Cramp

Election of PCC Members

Lesley Dawson (proposed by Ann Black and seconded by Carol Watson); Elizabeth Venter (proposed by Ian Hornsby and seconded by Paul Simmons); Zoe McCann; Jean Ditchburn (proposed by Jennifer Wharton and seconded by Maralyn Smith); Sue Williams (proposed by David Hornsby and seconded by Andy Harpham); and Jennifer Wharton (proposed by Ian Hornsby and seconded by Margaret Jones) were unanimously elected to the PCC.

Election to Deanery Synod (mid-triennium)

John Wells (proposed by Ian Hornsby and seconded by Chris Wheatley) was unanimously elected as Deanery Synod Representative and sits on the PCC ex officio

Appointment of Treasurer, PCC Secretary and Safeguarding Officer

It was unanimously agreed that Kerry Scott continue as **Treasurer**

It was unanimously agreed that Maralyn Smith continue as **PCC Secretary**

It was unanimously agreed that Eric Trevett continue as **Safeguarding Officer**

Proposed: Jennifer Wharton

Seconded: Mary Smith

Appointment of Sidespersons

It was noted that sidespersons are not formally appointed.

Appointment of Independent Examiner

It was agreed by majority to appoint Verdant Accountants as **Independent Examiner**

Proposed: Nigel Cramp

Seconded: Mike Livesey

Any Other Business

Wim gave a big thank you to: the congregation for their vast work behind the scenes; the office staff, in particular Maralyn Smith who works over her contracted hours; Jennifer Wharton who is in Church every day and whose help is invaluable; Jan Leftley for her work on the PCC for the last 15 years and he presented her with a bunch of flowers; the PCC for their support over the last 7-8 years; Aelwen for her work with refugees; Kirsty for art work for the parish magazine; the clergy team who meet once a month to pray and look after one another and who all work unpaid; the musicians; choir; volunteers on the AV rota; volunteers on the coffee rota; and everybody who volunteers for any of the other rotas.

Sandra thanked Wim for everything that he does for the Church and congregation.

There being no further business, the meeting closed with the saying of the Grace at 12.00pm.

CHURCH MINISTRY REPORTS

FROM THE VICAR:

“Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.” (Hebrews 13 v 2, NIV-UK)

2025 has been another year of remarkable growth and deepening fellowship at St John's. Building on our vision of 'Growing in love for God and each other,' we have seen that love take shape in beautiful, tangible ways. Our identity as a multicultural, welcoming community remains one of our greatest testimonies; the "love, acceptance, and kindness" that strangers and newcomers have felt years ago continues to be the heartbeat of our life together. This spirit of hospitality has flourished through our many activities.

We were blessed to run another two Alpha courses, a Prayer Course and the usual Marriage Preparation, Baptism and Confirmation classes, seeing lives transformed by the grace of God. Our weekly rhythms of church services, the small group sessions, Toddler Time, coffee mornings and community lunches, have become important spaces of connection. We again celebrated together at Jazz on the Green, shared in the joy of the Carnival Teas, and got involved with our Quiz nights and our Harvest Festival. Our English Language Classes have continued to serve many people and our dedicated working parties have continued to tend our churchyard, nurturing the physical beauty of our parish alongside its spiritual fruit that is produced by the Holy Spirit, our life-giver.

In these past years, God has been growing something beautiful among us. As a church family, we have seen growth in numbers, in diversity, and in the ways we worship, serve, and care for one another. With this growth has come a gentle but clear invitation, to make room. This is about hospitality, not just welcoming people at the door, but shaping a space where everyone can truly belong. A church where we can celebrate, move with dignity, pray deeply, worship freely and encounter God. We know that change touches memory. These pews have held prayers and tears, witnessed baptisms and funerals, celebrations and ordinary Sundays. Those stories matter. They are not being erased. We trust that the same God who met us here before will continue to meet us here again.

None of this, neither the daily ministry nor the vision for this new project would be possible without your joyful and faithful commitment. To the staff and volunteers who manage our admin, cleaning, music, AV, and welcome and coffee rotas: you are the hands and feet of this house of hospitality. I am incredibly grateful to each of you at St John's for your dedication. Thank you for your support as we take this next step together, physically and spiritually 'Making Room' for God, by His mercy to move even more powerfully among us.

Wim Mauritz

FROM THE CHURCHWARDENS:

As we approach another APCM it is a privilege to be part of such a vibrant and diverse community of God here in Copthorne. There are so many things currently happening and plans in the pipeline as we look to deliver on our 2025-2030 mission plans. It is clear we are truly blessed as a worshipping community in so many ways.

Church Services

All our Church services continue to be well attended and supported. Attendance numbers week on week, service by service, are variable but we continue to exceed 100 people across our Sunday services on most weeks. All of them have their own distinct feel but all provide space to explore, learn, grow, and worship God in faith. Our Wednesday communion services are smaller in nature but continue to be well attended with a strong core regular group.

Our congregations come together for special services, such as Easter, Pentecost, Harvest and Remembrance and these are a wonderful opportunity for our Church to come together as one in worship. The content of

these tries to balance the familiarity of both main services and it is a good opportunity for people of all ages and traditions to share fellowship together.

Our Christmas services are always a highlight of the year, and this year saw numbers increase across most of these services. This year we saw a significant increase in numbers attending our Nine Lessons and Carols service and the crib service continues to be extremely popular. These services always see a substantial number of visitors who do not routinely attend our Church. They are a fantastic opportunity to share the Good News at such a special time of year.

Other weekly activities

As well as our formal services the vibrant life of our Church is always enhanced by the many other activities that are hosted in our Church. From bible studies and courses to art groups and Toddler Time, there is always a wide variety. These are a great outreach to our community and beyond and the sign of a truly alive church. There is rarely any day of the week when there is not a form of ministry happening in our Church. I would encourage everyone, if not already doing so, to try and go along to one or more of these activities and to try something new. You will always receive a warm welcome!

As we move forward into 2026, we look forward, with hopeful prayers for the success of our Making Room project to refresh and renew our church building. This, once completed, will give us greater opportunity to flexibly use our space both in worship and in community service whilst retaining the special feeling of our wonderful building. We suspect many (including us) will be looking forward to improved heating in the church.

Social events

From quizzes to lunches, the annual village Carnival to our own Flower and Produce Show/Harvest Fair weekend, throughout the year there is a wide range of social activities within our Church. Every one of these is an opportunity to join in fellowship (whether that be sitting eating lunch or putting up tents and tables or washing up for Carnival). It also offers an outreach to our community and especially to those who “don’t do Church.” Thanks, must be given to all who get involved in organising these events and especially to the social team who co-ordinate and plan both the programme and the execution of these events so well.

Churchyard, Working parties and coffee mornings

Our monthly working party and coffee morning continues to help keep our Churchyard and Church in good order. We want to say a massive thank you to all those who faithfully support our working parties and to those who have additionally attended and helped at working parties at St Leonard’s. Turners Hill. As always, we welcome new members to the team and there are usually tasks inside and outside which can be skilled/unskilled and involve varying levels of physical exertion.

Our churchyard continues to be an incredibly special place of great tranquillity and demonstrates the beauty of God’s creation. A special thanks must be noted to Tom, Angie, and others who support them (including many of our friends residing in the Copthorne Hotel). Between them they spend numerous hours tending to the managed lawns and flower beds. We intentionally leave areas within the churchyard to a wilder state to encourage nature and wildlife to flourish.

Church Fabric and Property

Our Church remains in relatively good condition for the age of the building, a full electrical inspection was completed during 2025, and remedial works have now been completed – including the provision of RCD protection to all Church plug sockets.

We have checked the inventory of valuable items and confirm all are accounted for and remain in good condition. There are a couple of items which need minor repairs, but all remain usable currently.

Thank you!

Firstly, a big thank you to all who contribute in any way to the life of our Church, whether it be financially or through volunteering or just simply by being at one of our services or events. We particularly want to thank Maralyn in the office and anyone who is on one of our rotas, be that flowers, cleaning, serving, prayer ministry, coffee, AV support, children’s/ youth work or welcoming. All these roles are vital to support our ministry here at St Johns. If you feel you could join one (or another one) of our rotas at any point do talk to us or the office, as help is always needed and appreciated. Furthermore, we would like to thank the choir, musicians, worship leaders, and readers who bring variety and life to our worship and services.

We would like to especially thank Wim and the clergy team, our organists and many others who have stepped up during 2025 and taken on extra workload in supporting St Leonards alongside their roles at St Johns.

Finally, as Eddie comes to the end of his term as Churchwarden, I would like to personally thank him for all the support, advice, good humour, and huge dedication he has shown in an often-demanding role.

David Hornsby and Eddie Redfern, Churchwardens

DEANERY SYNOD:

The Parish of St John's Copthorne forms part of the East Grinstead Deanery, which covers a wide area from Cowden in the east to Bewbush in the west, and from Copthorne in the north to Ashurst Wood in the south, incorporating Crawley. The Deanery sits within the Diocese of Chichester. Our parish is represented by three elected Lay Deanery Synod Representatives, serving a three-year term. During 2025/26, three meetings were held, chaired either by the Rural Dean, Revd Richard Poole, or the Lay Chair, Mr Rob Pudney. The Synod's purpose is to act as a communication channel between the General Synod, Diocese, Deanery, and parishes, enabling shared learning, discussion, and coordination as we work to proclaim the Gospel in our communities.

First Synod Meeting – 5 April 2025 (St Swithun's, East Grinstead)

The meeting opened with reports from General Synod and the Deanery Finance Committee. A Deanery Celebration video and presentation were delivered by Revd Luke Whiteman and Revd Jamie Gater, highlighting ongoing ministry across the Deanery. Attendees then formed mixed laity and clergy groups to review parish activities, identify current challenges, and explore future opportunities for mission and ministry. This session encouraged collaborative reflection on strengths, needs, and areas where parishes could support one another.

Second Synod Meeting – 11 June 2025 (St Andrew's, Furnace Green)

Revd Richard Poole introduced the meeting by reminding us of the fundamental purpose of the Church rooted in the Great Commandment – to love the Lord your God (Matthew 22:37–39) and the Great Commission – Go make disciples (Matthew 28:19–20). He emphasized that parish revitalisation is best considered collaboratively at Synod, where clergy and laity can reflect together.

The meeting focused on six themes:

1. Mission (The Great Commission) – Parishes shared how they proclaim the Gospel through community presence, example, links with schools, study groups, Alpha, and pastoral offices such as baptisms and funerals.
2. Worship (The Great Commandment) – Discussion covered how parishes express love for God and neighbour through service, pastoral care, Sunday worship, discipleship, and community action (e.g., foodbanks). Sacrament and Scripture were noted as essential for sustaining spiritual depth.
3. Faith – Delegates reflected on modelling Christian faith through kindness, prayer, openness to God's leading, and prioritising spiritual growth over numerical measures.
4. Next Generation – Parishes considered how they invest in children and young people through toddler groups, youth clubs, children's worship, school engagement, and community activities that build relationships and form pathways to faith.
5. People (Succession Planning) – Discussions highlighted challenges in developing lay leadership, the need for intentional encouragement, and the importance of clear role descriptions. Obstacles included limited diocesan support for specific training pathways.
6. Leadership – Parishes shared the difficulty clergy face in shaping and sustaining vision, noting the need for delegation, shared ownership, and trusting God's leading. Even where vision is challenging, aligning congregations behind a shared direction was seen as vital.

The session reinforced the shared belief that mission, worship, faith, investing in younger generations, developing leaders, and good succession planning remain essential elements of parish growth.

Third Synod Meeting – 16 October 2025 (All Saints, Crawley Down)

Archdeacon Angela introduced two speakers: John Preston (Diocesan Secretary) and Stephen Hoyles (Chair of the Diocesan Board of Finance) who both made presentations.

John Preston – Diocesan Strategy and Finance

John outlined the 10-year Diocesan Growth Strategy, focusing on expanding what is already known to work. Three strategic priorities were identified:

- Inspiring Prayer and Worship
- Engaging Children and Young People
- Excellent Leadership

He outlined four streams of work (circulated separately) and explained the availability of grants for parishes, particularly for Youth Workers and other paid roles that could strengthen mission capacity. Parishes will be invited to apply for support. Regarding national funding, he noted progress from the Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment Board (SMMIB), with additional submissions due in late 2025. Outcomes were expected in early 2026, which would influence future funding opportunities for parishes.

John also addressed changes in national church finance, explaining that the former apportionment system had been abolished, with central funding now sourced from the Church Commissioners. This helps sustain the training of ordinands and supports increased clergy stipends—Chichester has applied a 7% rise to align with national increases.

Local financial adjustments included revised housing cost allocations for curates and a simplified method to account for vacancies. Although the Diocese continues to run a deficit, reductions from previous years show improved financial stability. Safeguarding audits highlighted the need for increased staffing, prompting investment in additional posts.

Stephen Hoyles – Parish Share and Financial Context

Stephen spoke about the tension between abundant mission opportunities and limited financial resources. He emphasized the role of clergy in energising congregations and shaping vision and the significance of PCCs in discerning parish priorities.

He acknowledged economic pressures on congregations but stressed that the Parish Share is a spiritual commitment rather than a transactional “invoice.” It is based on Parish Ministry Costs (PMC), which reflect the cost of clergy ministry across the Diocese. Parishes pledge contributions through the Deanery Treasurer, and recent improvements have helped reduce the overall diocesan deficit.

Stephen thanked parishes for faithful giving and reaffirmed the importance of generosity in sustaining ministry. He also drew attention to diocesan comparisons with neighbouring dioceses such as Guildford, London, and Southwark, noting that Chichester maintains a higher clergy-to-population ratio, reinforcing the need for continued financial commitment.

Conclusion

Across the year, Deanery Synod meetings have helped parishes share insights, discuss common challenges, and support one another in mission. Key themes have included revitalising parish life, strengthening leadership, investing in young people, and sustaining ministry through prayer, worship, and generosity. We remain grateful for the dedication of clergy, laity, and diocesan staff as together we continue the work of proclaiming the Gospel in our local communities.

Andy Harpham, Ian Hornsby and John Wells

Sharing the GOOD NEWS

CHURCH SERVICES AND SPECIAL EVENTS:

Our mission priority of sharing the Good News is not just a stand-alone focus; it underpins and connects with all our other mission priorities. At its core, it's about proclaiming the Gospel and reaching out to others by sharing God's message of love. It forms the foundation for everything we do and is key to growing and strengthening our worshipping community. The most obvious and frequent way we share the Good News is through our weekly and seasonal church services. We have become much more multicultural as a church since we welcomed and supported many refugees and asylum seekers who have arrived in our village since 2021.

Our church continues to be appreciated by many as a location where life events are celebrated with joy and thanksgiving. Our public worship activities have been of benefit to the wider community. We continue to do our key seasonal services such as Mothering Sunday, Easter, Harvest, Remembrance and Christmas which were very well attended. Our 'All Souls' Service was a particularly poignant, and very much appreciated,

occasion where those who have lost loved ones joined for worship and the sharing of memories – this was held in Church but also available online for those unable to be in Church.

Our Remembrance Sunday Service was supported by the local uniformed organisations who participated through readings and prayers to honour those who made the ultimate sacrifice in conflict. In 2025 we saw again many people of the wider village attending. At this service as well as at our Harvest Festival we were able to partner again with the Copthorne Silver Band. These, together with our other seasonal activities at Easter and Christmas, were opportunities to bring the village people to well organised church events with opportunities to engage with those who may otherwise not have had any opportunity for religious encounter over the Christmas period.

Our church building is generally open during daylight hours on most days either for services or for anyone to use for moments of quiet reflection and a place of peace. Throughout the week, the church hosts a variety of outreach activities, including community groups, toddler sessions, Alpha courses, language classes, social events, and quiet reflection times. Over the past three years, we've realised that our current worship space can no longer accommodate all these groups and activities. In the past few years, we've been considering how to reorder our main church building to better serve our mission and towards the end of 2025 we launched the MAKING ROOM project to accommodate this vision

Wim Mauritz

HOTEL CHAPLAINCY:

In 2025 I undertook a placement at Copthorne Hotel which houses asylum seekers, as part of my Curacy training. I spent time there on alternate Monday mornings from January to April, to offer a pastoral presence to the residents and staff.

Most of the hotel residents had been waiting for their asylum claim to be processed for many months. There is very little for the asylum seekers to do locally from day to day, although the hotel holds English language classes, which St John's also runs, alongside other weekly activities which some attend.

I set up a small space in the quiet conservatory in which to be available to speak with residents if they wanted to talk to me with some degree of privacy. I also moved around the lobby area greeting people and speaking to the staff periodically. I had some conversations in which I was asked for items such as mobile phone and clothes. I was able to listen to people's stories and ask them if they needed any support.

I spoke to many people using translation on my mobile phone, but some also had excellent English language skills. Many of the asylum seekers I spoke to had arrived in the UK alone, and felt lonely. Some families had small children. I could clearly sense the mental and emotional pain that people were suffering due to no longer having close relationships with family and friends. This was felt particularly acutely by people who have left elderly relatives behind.

I was pleased to have had this limited opportunity to be available for the hotel residents, even though I felt quite powerless to address most of their concerns and needs. On reflection, I think that a more consistent, regular pastoral presence would be of great value to the staff and residents at the hotel.

"For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes. ¹⁸He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing." Deuteronomy 10:17,18

Fi Coldicott

COFFEE BAR:

One imagines a Coffee Bar to be a nice, cosy indoor venue.... Not so ours. The teas and coffees, along with biscuits are served all year around with no breaks for holidays. We serve in all kinds of weather conditions!

There are many dog walkers who really enjoy each other's company and have bonded as good friends. I have to say, we have so much fun and laughter too. There are many other "customers", including children on their

way to school and toddlers who stop and have a biscuit. They have become more confident and will enter the church excitedly.

Just recently some of the men came into church, complete with coffee cup for a small service. And I was told by one dog owner who sometimes pops his head round the door in a Sunday service, "I could be converted..."

There is regular giving, monetary, biscuits, helping me put out tables and heaters for the Art Group and they look out too, for each other in the community, as well as showing concern if one needs anything medical. Sometimes political discussions are talked about, but the Coffee Bar is apolitical. Sometimes the conversation can be deep or emotional too....

The Group love Wim and look forward to seeing him and discussing theology as well as trying some of his baking!

The Coffee Bar is a wonderful way of taking Jesus out in the world!

Jennifer Wharton

ART GROUP:

The Abstract Art Group continues to flourish and is held on Tuesday and Friday mornings. Having been started mainly with people from the hotel, there are now people from the community also attending.

The Art Group now includes all styles and activities of art for the members, no longer just 'abstract', and so has changed its name to **St John's Art Group**.

Amongst the group are true artists, one girl had had her own Art Gallery. There were also two art teachers, one of whom took two commissions, producing beautiful paintings of the Virgin Mary. Another person in the group did a charcoal drawing of Jesus, which took her months and then presented it to me as a gift. One person said that she had only come to watch her husband as she couldn't paint and I gave her a simple taped canvas. The following week a magnificent waterfall was painted. This person has found her gift and regularly produces beautiful fantasy drawings, along with a wide range of work encompassing all styles.

During local events such as the Copthorne Carnival and St John's Harvest Fair, we put out the canvases in the church for the public to see and for a donation, make a purchase. We have raised approximately £600 in donations for the church.

Art is therapy. It's a wonderful way of focusing one's mind. It also surprises people what they can do. Every new person is given a canvas or watercolour paper, but before that, they are given a warm welcome and a cuppa.

Jennifer Wharton

Teaching to NURTURE

ALPHA, PRAYER, BAPTISM AND OTHER COURSES:

In 2025 we ran two Alpha courses. Alpha is for anyone who is curious about the Christian faith. The talks are designed to encourage conversation and to explore the basics of Christianity in a friendly, open, and informal environment. No question is out of bounds, and people are free to discuss as much or as little as they wish. Alpha runs in our church building. Each session begins with a short video followed by discussion in a small group where participants can share their thoughts.

We also ran the Prayer Course. The Prayer Course is an eight-week video series designed to help people and communities deepen their relationship with God through prayer. It is produced by 24-7 Prayer, an international and interdenominational movement of non-stop prayer. The course follows the structure of the Lord's Prayer and is based on Pete Greig's book *How to Pray: A Simple Guide for Normal People*. It focuses on the basics of talking and listening to God. It has been a great joy to see several people come to faith in Jesus Christ through these courses. This continues to be a great encouragement to our church community.

During the year we also held four Baptism and Confirmation preparation classes. Many candidates were baptised and confirmed in services held in May in Crawley, led by the Bishop of Horsham, and here in Copthorne, led by the Bishop of Chichester. In 2025 we also organised another Marriage Preparation Course for three couples who were married in the months that followed.

We continued to strengthen our links with local schools. We held regular assemblies at Copthorne Junior School and welcomed St John's Sunshine Pre-School, Fairway Infant School, and Copthorne Junior School into the church building for special services for the children. We also hosted several events for the young people and adults of our local uniformed organisations, where they learned about the Christian faith or took part in church services. All of this has been a great encouragement. We have seen lives touched and transformed by the Good News of Jesus Christ, and nurtured by the generosity and kindness of our church community.

Wim Mauritz

CARE HOMES AND PASTORAL HOME VISITS:

A brief Holy Communion Service is held fortnightly at the Heatherley Cheshire Care Home. Fi runs the service with Tom and Jeanette Cheeseborough as communion assistants. Gillian Hodsdon and Sue Williams have also supported her. Carol Watson has recently joined the team to play the piano. The service is appreciated by the residents, and numbers attending have been good, with usually 15-20 residents and staff. Sadly, due to illness at the Home, the planned Christmas Carol Service last year was cancelled. We are running a special Easter Service instead. It is a delight and privilege to serve some of the most vulnerable members of our Parish in this way, and to see God at work in their lives is wonderful.

Clergy and lay team members make regular visits to those who can no longer attend church services due to ill health. Holy communion is offered to those who would like to receive it, with two more people recently requesting visits. Mary Smith and Monica Polley usually accompany clergy to offer communion. These visits are very much appreciated. Pastoral visits are also made where a need has been indicated. The prayer circle led by Monica Polley continues to provide prayer support for those who have requested it.

"Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth." 1 John 3:18

Fi Coldicott

PASTORAL WORK:

Pastoral work is led by the clergy with the support of members of the church. We have continued to visit those who are unable to attend church for whatever reason, either on request or as a regular check in. Home communion is provided on a monthly basis to as many of these as would like to have it. This service is much appreciated by all those who take part as it provides a welcome opportunity for catching up on Church news as well as fellowship in communion. We are grateful to the team who take turns to come with us on these visits.

Hospital visits are also undertaken to either East Surrey Hospital or Crawley Hospital. We have good links with the Chaplains who will also visit to offer communion or prayer support.

We also offer opportunities for prayer and anointing with oil/laying on of hands.

A dedicated pastoral ministry is offered to those from the Copthorne hotel attending St John's Church, led by the incumbent and supported by other members of the team.

A chaplaincy service was trialled at Copthorne Hotel to provide additional support and opportunities for private discussion and prayer.

Care Home

With the rebuilding of Francis Court Care Home still in progress, we only have one care home to support at present.

Prayer

Our prayer circle continues to meet on a bi monthly basis, co-ordinated by Monica Polley. We have a dedicated email address for prayer requests and these are forwarded to those on the circle who undertake to pray regularly and in confidence.

Our prayer ministry team continues to offer individual prayer during Holy Communion each Sunday at 9.30am and monthly at the 11.00am communion service.

The clergy offer support for those at the end of their life and their families, as requested.

The clergy team continue to meet on a monthly basis to pray and support each other.

Bereavement Support

We have been running a bereavement support group for several years. Recently numbers have been fairly small. Due to clergy time restraints and the move of a team member, the decision was taken to pause the group for three months. A few people have expressed interest in following the 'Bereavement Journey'. Others have found this very helpful in the past. This course will be run again once we have enough participants.

The 'All Souls' service continues to provide an important place for remembering those we have lost and is very much appreciated, with some attending through contact with our funeral and bereavement support.

Connect and Bible Study Groups

There are several connect groups which support each other during the year. Additionally some small groups meet either regularly during the year, or for special courses. They are offered both during the day and evening to enable most people to attend. Two Advent preparation studies were run in December 2025.

*Revd Alexandra Wheeler
Associate Vicar.*

YOUTH:

The youth team continue to meet with our young people (school year 6+) during the 11am service on a Sunday morning to chat, study scripture and pray together. The young people are engaged and kind. We've seen a real development in the way many of them are expressing their faith during the discussion and prayer times.

Last summer we attended May Camp and joined Satellites (an impressive Christian youth event), for a week of worship and fellowship.

We would like to grow these types of opportunity as part of our 'encounter' priority and hope to take more young people in 2026.

We have been sad to say goodbye to 3 valuable members of our youth team. We are delighted to have recruited a new team member and we continue to pray for another 2 helpers to support the existing leaders to enable more social, encounter and discipleship activities in the year ahead.

Kirsty Mauritz

CHILDREN:

I took on the oversight of this group in January 2025. A huge debt of thanks is owed to curate Fiona Coldicott who led the ministry from summer 2024 and remains a committed leader in the team.

We remain a committed and supportive team of five leaders and four helpers who work with children of primary school age. The children meet in the Hub for around twenty minutes during the 11am service, three weeks out of four in term time, with the first Sunday being an all-age baptism service.

From January 2025, we have been working through Sally Lloyd-Jones' video series Jesus Story Book Bible, concentrating on the Old Testament. As well as watching an Old Testament Bible story, the children do age-appropriate activities, worksheets, craft and games based on the story. Each leader brings their own style.

In 2025, Fiona and her teams, organised two highly successful children's events. The first was Messy Church on Good Friday, which engaged primary aged children with the Easter story through craft activities. Feedback from children and their parents was overwhelmingly positive and this team are gearing up to organise a similar event in 2026. Christmas 2025 saw a Christmas craft event which was also well attended (15 children and their parents). Again the feedback was very positive and those participating hoped we would repeat it in 2026. Thank you to all those who contributed and volunteered to make these events possible.

In January 2026, we began using materials from the United Reform Church resources: Faith Adventures for Children Together.

Unfortunately since the end of 2025, attendance of primary aged children on Sundays has dropped to critically low numbers. Since January 2026 we have had three Sundays with no children at the 11am service and two Sundays with one child. More children have attended on the first Sunday all-age services. Reasons for low attendance could be due to: children moving into the youth age group without new children replacing them; illness, and conflicting schedules of children's sports activities.

Children are an integral part of any church family and so I suggest the team continues discussions on how to reach and engage children both within families of church members and the wider community. In the wider context of church life, a larger number of village children regularly attend the Monday toddler group but these families are not engaging with Sunday worship despite feeling positively towards St John's church. The extra craft events did attract these families.

Team changes: the team stayed the same during 2025 but in February 2026, we said goodbye to long-term leader Victoria. Huge thanks goes to her for her long commitment to this team. In 2026 the team will lose an integral member as Fiona ends her curacy at St John's. Keeping our team at sustainable numbers must be a priority this year.

With that said, a final tribute goes to the current team of children's ministry volunteers, leaders and helpers, who are so supportive of the children and each other and creative and dynamic in their Bible teaching.

Lizzie Venter

TODDLER TIME:

The Stay and Play Group, Toddler Time, continues to meet on a Monday morning between 10.30 and 12.00 in term time, as a time of fun and learning for the toddlers, with friendship and support being offered to parents or grandparents and child minders. We raised our entry fee from £1.00 to £1.50 in order to cover our costs.

We continue to offer a gentle introduction to the Christian faith, with Bible stories, and lots of singing which is very popular. It is such a delight to see young children join in with enthusiasm and also to observe the same families returning week by week, with friendships formed between infants and parents alike. Numbers may have dipped slightly during this Spring Term due to children moving on to nursery and playgroups and also due to the usual seasonal ailments. On average though, approximately 10-12 families attend. One of the best challenges is keeping pace with children's needs as they grow to the next level of learning and development.

Last year, we were glad to welcome a liaison with the West Sussex Early Help Service, which offers early intervention at times of need, and serves as a hub to other services, as well as offering health and well being support. Their team has two visits planned to our group in the latter half of the year.

Fi and I would like to express our appreciation of our wonderful team of volunteers, who continue to contribute their gifts and time to making each session interesting and fun. Sadly, we have had to say goodbye to Beenish and Lizzie. A huge thank you for everything you've brought to the group. We have been so pleased to welcome 2 enthusiastic new volunteers to the team, but are always seeking to add to our numbers. If you are interested, please speak to Fi or myself about visiting us.

One of our mothers to the team:

"You all create such a wonderful, friendly, accepting atmosphere. It has been a real sanctuary for me to come to on a Monday morning."

Our newest volunteer commented that:

"this is a time of real joy and fun seeing the children learn and grow, develop friendships and play together".

'He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.' Isaiah 40:11

Liz Logan

CHOIR:

The choir have been involved in leading the sung worship at the usual 9.30 am services, along with some of the more major events in the church year. These include the Agape service on Maundy Thursday, Easter Day and our traditional Nine Lessons and Carols service which was well attended and followed by some festive mulled wine and mince pies. My special thanks to Gill Taylor who stepped in for me to conduct the Nine Lessons and Carols service.

The choir have also been requested to sing at a number of weddings, wedding blessings and funerals throughout the year.

Our thanks go to our wonderful team of organists Ann, Carol and David who have ably supported us throughout the year, but who have also sung as part of the choir.

Unfortunately the choir has reduced in number slightly, but we would love to hear from anyone who would be interested in coming to join us and help lead the singing at our Sunday worship.

Thanks also go to the Copthorne Silver Band who have played for us in leading the music for the Remembrance Service, and for entertaining us at our Harvest Fair.

My personal thanks go to all of those who have dutifully attended monthly practices, turning out in all weathers (and temperatures!) and we look forward to bringing you much more music in 2026.

Lesley Dawson

Practising GENEROSITY

STAFF, VOLUNTEERING AND OFFICE SUPPORT:

The office has become increasingly busier over the last year with the additional responsibility of St Leonard's Church in Turners Hill, their churchyard and magazine.

Sadly Laura resigned from her position as Church Administrator at the end of October 25 and for a number of reasons, we decided not to immediately replace this position.

Hollie Freeman took on the role of Communications Officer for December and we have benefited from some beautiful social media reels and posts. Hollie is now commuting between Ireland and Copthorne and therefore is no longer in post.

Gill Taylor has taken over the invoicing for both the Copthorne and Turners Hill magazines which is a huge relief and is ably assisted currently by Nigel.

Rotas

We have over 36 rotas which support our services at St John's with many of our church family volunteering for more than one role, for which we are so grateful. As always, more volunteers are needed for some of the roles and if you think this is something, whilst reading this, that you may be interested in, then please do speak to me. It is important to note the enormous help we receive from our church members who are asylum seekers. Without their support, be it serving coffee, cleaning and working in the churchyard, we would be

lost. They are a delight to work with, willing and enthusiastic in their support of us and ever thankful of the welcome from St John's and most importantly the love of God.

As 1 Peter chapter 4, verse 10 quotes :

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

....and at St John's Church, we see this every day!

*Maralyn Smith
Church Manager*

SOCIAL EVENTS:

Many thanks to all who came and supported our events during 2025.

Our outdoor events were blessed with good weather - Jazz on the Green - always popular and attracts many villagers who came prepared with picnics, as well as those who just happened to be passing the Green and stayed to enjoy the music. Also we served 'cream teas' on Carnival day and supported Harvest Fair and Flower & Produce Show with tea and cake in the Hub.

The highlight of the summer was our special afternoon tea to celebrate the 10th Birthday of the Hub. Several special guests were invited, including Rev Simon Hill, who was the main driving force to get the Hub project completed. Pictures were shown of the construction of the Hub and Opening Dinner bringing back many happy memories. Focal point was a detailed model of the Hub expertly crafted by Jan Leftley.

We held our popular Quizzes and ended the year with a Christmas Lunch.

Big thanks to all who helped with events, especially setting up and clearing up, we couldn't do it without you.

Do watch out for our events during 2026 and come and join us.

The Social Team

THE PARISH HUB:

While the Parish Hub continues to be a popular venue for both casual lettings and regular hires, the uncertain economic situation during the year was reflected in a reduction in party and event lettings of almost 25% versus 2024. Nevertheless, the Hub Team would like to thank all those villagers who held their parties and celebration events in the Hub, supporting this community asset for the benefit of all.

Our regular lettings hours were 3% lower than in 2024, reflecting one fewer class per week, again, per our hirer, due to the economic situation meaning the take up for that class was below what was financially viable. Thank you to our long-term regular hirers (Springfit, Fire Fitness, Apple Tree Yoga and Sadowski Latin Dance) for their continued support, as well as the more recent regulars Move It or Lose It, Susana Crespo Yoga and Clubbercise. We hope that our residents will continue to support all our regular hirers.

There was a significant increase in church organised community events including quizzes, Christmas crafting sessions, themed Tea Parties and the provision of teas at the Copthorne Carnival and the Harvest Festival. Thank you to all who supported these events helping to raise funds for the Rehema project in Tanzania, Tear Fund and St Johns.

Although energy costs are still at the high levels we saw imposed two years ago, we did not increase our hire rates in 2025 so they remain very competitive and the Hub is the only hall in the village equipped with A/V systems and fully air-conditioned both in the hall and five-star rated kitchen.

During the year we were able to agree a further three year lease of the first floor hall (the South Room) to Worth Parish Council who also lease the first floor offices and we thank them for their continuing partnership. There are a few weekday slots available for clubs or organisations looking for an ideal location for their weekday sessions, both in the main hall and the first floor South Room (also air-conditioned and A/V system equipped). Local voluntary and not-for-profit organisations have also found the Hub ideal for seminars and training days.

Although there is limited parking at the Hub, an agreement with the Copthorne Sports Association, who run the Copthorne Jubilee Pavilion, means we can offer parking at that location for larger events, opening the Hub to a wider clientele.

Lettings of the main hall in 2025 generated £35,000 of income with operating expenses for the period of £23,500. The income from the lease of the first floor South Room to Worth Parish Council generated £7,850 in the year. The recharges to Worth Parish Council for shared service charges and utilities provided a further £4,200 of income in the year.

Thanks go to our Hub Co-ordinator, Tracey Price, who deals so competently with all our bookings; to Richard Polley, in his role as hardware facilities manager, for dealing most efficiently with a variety of plumbing and electrical glitches and other “mechanical” upsets; to Ian Woodcock in his role as caretaker; to Maralyn Smith, church manager, for her “back office” support and, last but not least, to our wonderful cleaner, Veronica Frederick who, sadly, retired at the end of the year, having kept this facility in tip-top condition over the past eight years as a superb asset for the village.

Mike Livesey

Legal Documentation Relating to the Parish Hub (updated December 2025)

The documentation is filed in a box file in the Parish Office. In summary:

Worth Parish Council have been granted a 25 year lease on the use of the North Rooms under the following arrangement

- The Lease runs for 25 years, from 1st January 2015 to 31st December 2040.
- For the first 15 years the rent payable is £1 pa.
- On 1st January 2030 (15th Anniversary of the Lease) a premium rent of £10,000 is payable and the annual rent (payable quarterly) increases to 50 percent of the then market rent.
- On 1st January 2035 a full market rent becomes payable.
- Worth Parish Council are responsible for 23 percent of all Shared Service Costs as defined in Clause 8.2. (This is based on the respective floor areas.) St John’s PCC’s obligations in providing services are detailed in Clause 8.3.
- St John’s PCC are obliged to provide Quarterly Accounts to Worth Parish Council.

A Section 119 Report was submitted in fulfilment of the Charities Act 2011 in support of the above arrangements.

Worth Parish Council have an annual renewable lease on the South Room. The annual rent (currently £8,000) is reviewable every three years from 2015. The 2024 review resulted in an annual rent as above, effective from May 2025, with an agreement that it increases by 2.5% each year until the next review, which will be in September 2027 to be effective from May 2028. In addition, Worth Parish Council pays a Proportionate Share (13%) of the Shared Service Costs as defined in the North Room Lease dated 10th June 2015. (Note that this is in addition to Worth Parish Council’s share of the Shared Service Costs provided for under the North Room Lease Agreement.) Worth Parish Council has the option of converting the lease into a longer lease.

St John’s PCC has granted a lease to the Trustees of the Copthorne Village Millennium Group (CVMG) for use of the Archive Room on the First Floor and access to storage in the loft for 15 years from January 1st 2015 at £1pa. The Millennium Group undertakes to pay 10 percent of annual income excluding restricted funds towards the upkeep of the Parish Hub and to offset cost of publication of the work in the Copthorne Magazine. The Incumbent of St John’s is a member of the CVMG Committee if s/he so wishes.

Service Agreements have been entered into for:

Lift LOLER inspection (directly between Worth Parish Council and the provider);
Lift Annual Service (directly between Worth Parish Council and the provider);
Boiler annual service;
Security annual checks;
Water annual checks;
Wiring and fire alarm annual checks;

Portable Appliance Testing;
Fire extinguishers;
Air-conditioning (for the main hall. Directly between Worth Parish Council and the provider for the South Room and first floor offices).

Other Legal Agreements and Matters

The Incumbent of St John the Evangelist is a Trustee of the Delmar-Morgan Hall and of St John's Sunshine Pre-School.

The Incumbent is also a Foundation Governor of Copthorne CE Junior School.

MISSION PARTNERS: Mission Partners (home and overseas)

Crawley Open House & Easter Team

We are a food and clothing collection point for the Crawley Open house and the Crawley Easter Team, to help local people in crisis as well as homeless people to feel accepted, cared for and valued by providing food and support.

Christian Aid

Last year we joined in again with Christian Aid Week. This is an annual door-to-door fundraising drive by the charity Christian Aid. The drive is held each year in Britain during the second week of May, when volunteers post red collection envelopes to households around Copthorne village, joining with thousands of others doing the same around the country. Christian Aid works with 700 local organisations across 50 developing countries.

Tearfund

In October 2025 we organised another Tearfund Quiz, a fundraising event where the proceeds of the evening are donated to Tearfund. Tearfund is an international Christian relief and development agency based in Teddington, UK. It currently works in around 50 countries, with a primary focus on supporting those in poverty and providing disaster relief for disadvantaged communities.

Royal British Legion

Our annual Remembrance Sunday is our busiest church service of the year. In the past 4 years we have held this service outdoors since we are not able to fit all attendees inside our church building. This year, as is custom with previous years we raised funds for the Royal British Legion, a charity providing financial, social and emotional support to members and veterans of the British Armed Forces, their families and dependants.

Compassion

Compassion is an international children's charity that through sponsorship provides children and young people the opportunity to thrive and reach their God-given potential both now and into the future. As church we sponsor Ivan in Uganda by paying for his school fees. Ivan writes with his thanks for his education, his letters inspire us with his expressions of his faith in Jesus.

CMS

The amazing work of Heather Johnstone, St John's Mission Partner at the Rehema Centre in Mara, Tanzania, continues to alleviate the hardship and struggles of many families, and to empower women. The aim is to meet their everyday needs of food, clothing, shelter and education, alongside training in how to become self-sufficient and to care for their families. Income from the Centre comes from a food outlet, cafe with delicious food, and craft shop, with items skilfully made. Heather visited us again last year this time it was during one of our afternoon Tea Party Fundraising events. She enlightened us on her work, and on her achievements, which were helped by the kindness and generosity of our congregation, and community. Heather keeps us updated with regular newsletters, detailing Praise/Prayer points, and with emails, all with information and pictures, highlighting examples of hardship and vulnerability, but with so much news of happy fun times, Church involvement and special Services. This gives us a window into the world of a life in poverty but also

shows how the empowerment and training helps provide a voice for these local women, in Mara. The Craft Team are truly thankful for the kindness, good wishes, and huge support received from our Church family, Congregation and Village.

Wim Mauritz

Speaking up for JUSTICE

THE JUSTICE TEAM:

This vision priority has focussed mostly, this year, on the journey of the many asylum seekers who have come to our church. The Gospel of Matthew says *"I was a stranger and you invited me in."* and we truly believe that is exactly what we have done this year.

As Christians we are called to share God's love with those seeking safety and hope. The Bible reminds us again and again to welcome the stranger and love the foreigner. When we open our hearts and our communities to those seeking refuge, we reflect the compassion of Christ and become signs of God's kingdom.

Our work with the Home Office and Local MP's has been largely led by Wim, from face to face meetings, advocacy and letter writing to support those who have fled the most unimaginable circumstances and chosen to commit to Christ. Liz and Jean have led our contact with the local GP services and also Citizen's Advice via Judith Wells. We now have established links with both West Sussex and Mid Sussex councils and regular contact in respect of schooling and transport for those who live at the Copthorne Hotel.

A focus for our group was sharing our knowledge and experience with other Churches and on Saturday 28th February 2026 we hosted an event 'From Welcome to Wisdom'. Over 40 different churches attended. Wim interviewed several asylum seekers who have since received refugee status and moved to different parts of the country; their testimony was very powerful and all of them spoke of the welcome they received at St John's and described it as 'our church' despite now living in different areas. Welcome Churches and Empathy Action described their work and Barbara Herring spoke eloquently about her journey as a refugee. The event was a huge success.

Micah 6:8

"What does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

We will continue our work with all those who seek justice offering them a warm welcome and advocating for them wherever possible.

Maralyn, Jean, Liz and Wim

Care for CREATION

SAFEGUARDING TEAM:

During 2025 the Parish Safeguarding Dashboard was launched within the diocese and was adopted by this parish in May. This is a new tool designed to make safeguarding compliance simpler and more manageable and has now become the mandatory method to assure safeguarding compliance in the parish. At the time of adoption, we were assigned to level 2 and due to good progress were promoted to level 3 in October.

There have been no cases of concern, or otherwise requiring action from the Safeguarding Officer, since the last report.

All risk assessments with a safeguarding focus have been approved by the PCC.

DBS renewals are all up to date and together with training records, are held on the One Drive. Training requirements have been monitored and reminders issued to those with current or upcoming training needs.

Eric Trevett and Monica Polley

BUILDING TEAM:

This has been an exciting and challenging year

Our Buildings team has met on an ad hoc basis to develop a PHASE ONE project, based on the winner of our architectural competition, Jonathan Cerowski.

This year we have:

- Appointed Jonathan Cerowski as the lead architect in our proposed reordering scheme.
- Had a Diocesan Advisory Committee (the DAC) visitation to look at our reordering plans
- Undertaken a complete investigation of the nave subfloor prior to replacing the floor completely with a well-insulated structure.
- Had an energy survey which has changed our approach in respect of heating.
- Decided upon replacement infrared “magic lamp” low glare heating to replace our existing infrared heating system, with an installed capacity 40% less than that in our current system, and very much more controllable.
- Abandoned our previous heating approach, which involved wet underfloor heating driven by an air source heat pump, in turn supplied by energy from our proposed roof mounted solar PV array.
- Appealed to the Planning Inspectorate to get two planning application refusals overturned. We were successful.
- Had smart metering installed and are currently recording and monitoring our time-phased energy consumption in both church and the Copthorne HUB building
- Very recently we have agreed to make an informal application to the DAC as the initial step in making a formal Faculty Application for our PHASE ONE reordering project, which has been launched to our congregations as “Making Room” with the subtext: **NEW DOOR - NEW FLOOR - NEW SEATING - NEW HEATING.**

Our significant heating proposal change – a rationale

We were recommended by the Diocesan advisor to book an Energy Survey. This was undertaken and reported in April. As a result, the team were strongly advised not to further pursue our original objective of underfloor heating: apart from the capital cost involved it was likely to be difficult to run economically, as the church building is in intermittent rather than continual daily use. We were recommended to explore “Chandelier infrared heating”, which had been piloted at St Matthew’s church in Bristol. We fully evaluated the suggestion, but whilst have an installation for less than a fifth the projected cost of chandelier heating, and that it would reduce our maximum installed energy consumption by 40%, whilst providing zone-configurable instant heating highly effective in heating people rather than church fabric, it proved very expensive to install. One of our team members, Ian Hornsby, had found a supplier of ultra-low visual glare infrared heating. We found that we could for the congregation.

This immediately caused us a significant change of direction with our PHASE ONE reordering project, which had been based on underfloor heating with power supplied from an air source heat pump driven partly in turn by our proposed solar PV array.

Our planning application to mount a 56 element solar voltaic panel array on the south facing roof.

In 2023-24 we had realised that a south facing roof provided the ideal location for a solar array, which would allow us to utilise the power to drive our proposed heating system and to sell surplus power back to our Distribution Network Operator at 15p/kWh.

We had first applied to MSDC for Prior Approval, but our application was rejected by the Conservation Officer. After taking formal advice from MSDC we applied for full planning consent. This was again refused on the grounds that the church is a Non-Designated Heritage Asset. As we had unanimous support from both church members and the local population we appealed to the Planning Inspectorate. Our appeal succeeded in July 2025. We now have three years in which to use the consent. Once we have completed our time-phased energy consumption analysis we will be in a position to decide whether to implement the consent.

John Wells

Eco Church Team:**A Rocha and ECO Church**

In 2019, pre-pandemic, we had registered with the A Rocha Christian charity and following their survey process we were duly awarded BRONZE status in the five identified categories. There are 365 parishes in the Diocese. In November, 59 parishes had achieved BRONZE, and only 5% (18) had been awarded SILVER. We had not formally attempted to “Go for SILVER” until early in 2025. Our ECO Church team of six worked separately, online and as a team and submitted a claim in November 2025. As a result we were awarded SILVER status and are now working towards achieving GOLD status – a much more challenging process – there are currently only two GOLD parishes in the Diocese. Our BRONZE and SILVER awards are on display in the church.

We have set ourselves the target of achieving GOLD status by the end on 2028.

Working to look after God’s Creation

Each of the five categories in ECO church has a significant impact on caring for Creation. We are blessed with a wonderfully diverse ecological tapestry in our churchyard. We are working together with the churchyard maintenance team to ensure that we improve the opportunities for all Creation to work together as part of the web of life, from the smallest bugs or nematodes through natural wildflower habitat planting, birds, butterflies and moths and small mammals.

East Grinstead’s ECO Church group

St John’s has joined together with representatives from St Swithun’s and St Mary’s churches; Trinity Methodist church, and the catholic Our lady and St Peter’s church. We meet regularly to exchange ECO views and opportunities and to provide mutual support in our endeavours.

John Wells

Trustees Annual Report and Financial Report

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of

St. John the Evangelist, Copthorne

St. John's Church, Church Road, Copthorne, West Sussex RH10 3RD

Registered Charity no: 1155185

For the year ended 31 December 2025

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Website: www.copthornechurch.org

Incumbent: The Reverend Willem Mauritz,

The Vicarage, Church Road, Copthorne, RH10 3RU

Associate Vicar: Reverend Alexandra Wheeler

Assistant Curate: Reverend Fiona Coldicott

Independent Examiner: To be appointed

Bankers: The Co-operative Bank plc PO Box 250, Delf House, Southway, Skelmersdale, WN8 6WT,

Trustees Annual Report for 2025

For

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St. John the Evangelist, Copthorne

Our Aims and Purposes as a Charity

St John the Evangelist is part of the Diocese of Chichester and the Church of England. As the parish church in Copthorne, we believe that our core purpose is to be a Christian presence in our local community and to proactively play our part in God's mission, reaching out in sharing God's love to all. The PCC of St John's is responsible for the upkeep of the charity's assets such as the main church building, the Parish Hub, offices, vestry and churchyard for the benefit of all parishioners. The PCC is a team made up of members of clergy and lay members of the church. Together they are responsible for the overall wellbeing, practical as well as spiritual, of St John's church, the church members, and the church buildings. The PCC also has a duty to promote the mission of the church within the wider community. Our mission statement "GROWING IN LOVE for God & each other" is rooted in the Christian calling to love God and your neighbour as yourself.

What we planned to do to achieve our charitable objectives

When planning our activities for the year, the PCC considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and the specific guidance on 'charities for the advancement of religion'. The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, fully recognising its duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. Our charitable objectives are to drive our key priorities for the coming years. As a local church in Copthorne, we are passionate about sharing the Gospel with everyone and nurturing one another as followers of Jesus Christ. We are committed to demonstrating generosity to those in need, raising awareness of injustice, and taking action to care for God's creation both locally and globally. In all that we do, we pray for God's kingdom to come and His will to be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Our mission to grow in love for God and each other is expressed through five key priorities:

1. *Sharing the GOOD NEWS*
2. *Teaching and NURTURE*
3. *Practising GENEROSITY*
4. *Speaking up for JUSTICE*
5. *Care for CREATION*

What we achieved and how we affected beneficiaries' lives

Sharing the GOOD NEWS

Our mission priority of sharing the Good News is not just a stand-alone focus; it underpins and connects with all our other mission priorities. At its core, it's about proclaiming the Gospel and reaching out to others by sharing God's message of love. It forms the foundation for everything we do and is key to growing and strengthening our worshipping community. The most obvious and frequent way we share the Good News is through our weekly and seasonal church services. We have become much more multicultural as a church since we welcomed and supported many refugees and asylum seekers who have arrived in our village since 2021. The current number of people who are on the electoral roll is 122 and on average, our weekly services attract between 100-130 people, with seasonal and special services drawing even larger crowds – sometimes doubling that number. For larger services we've expanded to use our churchyard to accommodate everyone.





We are also committed to nurturing future generations through our children's and youth programs, led by dedicated volunteers. On Sundays, these groups meet during the 11am service to explore the Bible, discuss life, and pray together. Our leadership teams carefully plan each session, sharing God's love with the young people. Through our partnerships with local schools, we can also share the Good News with pupils, inviting them to seasonal services and bringing Bible stories into school assemblies. Additionally, we regularly engage with local uniformed groups, introducing them to the Christian faith.

Our church continues to be appreciated by many as a location where life events are celebrated with joy and thanksgiving. Our public worship activities have been of benefit to the wider community. We continue to do our key seasonal services such as Mothering Sunday, Easter, Harvest, Remembrance and Christmas which were very well attended. Our 'All Souls' Service was a particularly poignant, and very much appreciated, occasion where those who have lost loved ones joined for worship and the sharing of memories – this was held in Church but also available online for those unable to be in Church.



Our Remembrance Sunday Service was supported by the local uniformed organisations who participated through readings and prayers to honour those who made the ultimate sacrifice in conflict. In 2025 we saw again many people of the wider village attending. At this



service there was a re-dedication of the Lych Gate. On Remembrance Sunday, as well as at our Harvest Festival we were able to partner again with the Copthorne Silver Band. These together with our other seasonal activities at Easter and Christmas were opportunities to bring the village people to well organised church events with opportunities to engage with those who may otherwise not have had any opportunity for religious encounter over the Christmas period.

Our church building is generally open during daylight hours on most days either for services or for anyone to use for moments of quiet reflection and a place of peace. Throughout the week, the church hosts a variety of outreach activities, including community groups, toddler sessions, Alpha courses, language classes, social events, and quiet reflection times. Over the past three years, we've realised that our current worship space can no longer accommodate all these groups and activities. In the past few years, we've been considering how to reorder our main church building to better serve our mission and towards the end of 2025 we launched the MAKING ROOM project to accommodate this vision.

Teaching and NURTURE



Our mission to teach and nurture followers of Christ is rooted in Jesus' Great Commission: *"Go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit"* (Matthew 28:19, NIV-UK). We believe our calling is to reach out to others with Jesus' message of hope. The process of making disciples naturally happens when newer believers are nurtured by more experienced disciples. Our focus on teaching and nurturing seeks to help new Christians experience God's love and receive the power of the Holy Spirit to become more like Christ.

In 2025, we've again seen a growing number of people come to faith, be baptised, and engage in our prayer gatherings, children's, youth, music, and Bible study groups. Throughout the year, we ran two Alpha courses and one Prayer Course (a course per term), four baptism preparation classes (once a quarter), and two confirmation classes (in spring and autumn). We also organised a Marriage Preparation course for couples getting married at our church.

We have held another bereavement course and continued to sustain the existing support and prayer groups. All these smaller groups have proven to be a primary space for pastoral care, Christian discipleship, friendship, and the building of meaningful relationships. Our aim remains for them to be large enough to encourage missional activities and small enough to ensure that everyone is cared for.

Our children and youth groups meet on a Sunday. Children and youth meet during the 11am service. The Y6-Y9 group continue to explore the bible, talk about life and pray together. The group is settled and engages enthusiastically in the activities. The leadership team is committed and generous, planning each session and sharing God's love with the young people.



We have a Pastoral Ministry Team that actively maintains contact with, and visits, those who are sick or lonely in our parish. This team also provides pastoral care before, during, and after regular church services. Additionally, we provide care in several local community homes within the parish, where residents and caregivers can attend services or receive home visits when possible.

Our church website and social media platforms help keep both our church members and the wider community informed about events, courses, and opportunities to get involved. To ensure accessibility, we also produce and distribute the Copthorne Magazine, which is delivered by volunteers to all village residents, keeping them informed about all our activities. Our WhatsApp prayer group has become a valued part of our church life, offering a space for people to connect and pray together, including those who are housebound. We also publish a weekly online newsletter to keep everyone up to date with life at St. John's, and for those who are unable to access digital content, we print and deliver it.

Practising GENEROSITY

Generosity is at the heart of our vision for growing in love. We believe that God calls us to be generous with what He has given us. Generosity is a sign of trust in God's provision, knowing that there will be enough for everyone to share. We are mindful that giving should come willingly and joyfully, not out of pressure or obligation. As St. Paul writes in his second letter to the Corinthians: *"Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."* (2 Corinthians 9:7, NRSVA).

To encourage generous financial giving, we've continued to promote the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) for our regular givers. The PGS is a simple and secure way for people to contribute and helps the church receive income more efficiently, reducing the administrative burden on our treasurer, staff, and volunteers. Alongside PGS, we offer several other ways to give, such as cash, card payments, and QR code donations. We also aim to emphasize the importance of generosity and stewardship through sermons and teachings.



Generosity isn't just about money. We also focus on how we can support the work of the church in practical ways, such as volunteering our time. All church members are encouraged to use their gifts of ministry at services – leading, welcoming, serving, reading lessons and leading prayers. We are very grateful to the musicians and singers and AV technicians who freely give of their expertise at church services. We were again very grateful for our social teams that organised many of our different social events.

In 2025, we continued our international engagement with refugees giving opportunity for integration, for some the learning of English during our language classes and for others the opportunity of joining our work parties or other courses that incorporates Christian learning. We also continued to provide asylum seekers with chaplaincy sessions at the Copthorne Hotel and offering them additional resources (such as bibles) in several other languages.

This year we again donated children's bibles to all the year 3's at Copthorne Junior School and Youth Bibles to the Year 6's at their leavers' service.

Social events are a key point of our ministry to the village, enabling church members to invite others to join us. We were delighted to be able to continue these events during 2025. Our Social team work hard planning events throughout the year which are well attended by both church members and the village and wider community. Highlights of 2025 included:

- Weekly coffee mornings outside at the coffee bars and at the I-Café
- Monthly coffee mornings in church during the working parties
- Fundraising tea party events for our Mission Partners
- Various quiz nights - including a Tearfund quiz raising both the profile and funds for the work of Tearfund
- Jazz on the Green
- Teas and refreshments at the annual Copthorne Carnival.
- The Flower and Produce Show / Harvest Fair

In addition to these local efforts, we remain committed to generous giving to charities and mission organisations beyond our village. We support both local and global causes, including Crawley Open House, The Children's Society, The Royal British Legion, the Church Mission Society (Heather Johnstone's Rehema Project in Tanzania), Tearfund, and Compassion. We also participate in Christian Aid Week, where we distribute envelopes and organise central collection points throughout the village.

Most of our events are advertised around the village and in our local Copthorne Magazine. The printing and delivery of the bi-monthly Copthorne Magazine is co-ordinated by the church and supported by local advertising. It contains news, events and reports on church and local activities with approx. 3000 copies being delivered free to every home in Copthorne by a team of village and church volunteers.



Speaking up for JUSTICE

This priority helps us to engage with global justice issues. The Bible teaches that all people are created in God's image and are equally valuable. Christians believe that God is a God of justice, and as His image-bearers, we are called to pursue justice, particularly for the poor, oppressed, and vulnerable in society. Our mission to speak up for justice is inspired by the last chapter of Proverbs. King Lemuel's mother offers this wisdom: *"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy"* (Proverbs 31:8-9, NIV-UK).

Advocating for justice is not easy, but it is an essential part of our Christian calling. As a church, we continue to support organizations such as Christian Aid, Tearfund and Welcome Churches addressing both global and local injustices. These agencies work to speak out against injustice and build safe communities, protecting people from violence and modern-day slavery.



As Christians, we are called to love and welcome the stranger, regardless of their cultural background. Since 2021, we have gained a lot of experience of caring for refugees and asylum seekers. In 2025, we have been able to speak on behalf of local refugees and asylum seekers in our village community. We regularly collaborate with local authorities and the Home Office, helping refugees understand their legal rights and access to education and housing, while also advocating for them with our local MP.

Care for CREATION

As Christians, we have a scriptural mandate to care for all of God's creation. This responsibility is a core part of our mission and influences how we treat our land, buildings, investments, and other assets.

As a church, we want to play our part in protecting and enhancing the diversity and abundance of life in our local area, especially our churchyard, while also working with others to restore and sustain the health of our

wider planet. We believe that when we adopt a proper relationship with creation, others may be drawn into a deeper, life-giving relationship with our Creator God. We worship a God who loves the Earth He created and calls us to care for it. Caring for creation is an essential part of our worship and witness, as we respond to a creation that is groaning (Romans 8:22).

Our church has always been a place where we celebrate significant life events with joy and gratitude. We take great care in maintaining our churchyard, which is much appreciated by the village. Most of the routine maintenance of the church and churchyard is done by volunteers from the church and the wider village community. In 2025, we received our Silver Eco Church Award. Eco Church, launched by the charity A Rocha in 2016, has grown into a community of churches working together to care for God's Earth. At the heart of the Eco Church initiative is an online survey that helps churches assess how they are caring for the environment in various areas of church life.



The Parish Hub, opened in 2015, is proving of great benefit to church and community alike. It hosts an array of clubs and activities such as art groups, social clubs, various sporting activities and exercise classes for all ages. The presence of the Parish Hub has increased the footfall through the churchyard with many villagers enjoying the attractive space. In 2025 we celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Parish Hub with local dignitaries and those involved with original construction of it. The Parish Hub has a management team which ensures the smooth running of bookings, financial security and a high standard of upkeep. In addition to our volunteers, the church employs a caretaker and assistant and a Hub co-ordinator – who manages marketing, bookings and some of the day-to-day issues that arise.



In recent years, we have made several steps toward sustainability, including switching to environmentally responsible utility providers. A few years ago we created a "wildflower meadow" and in 2024 we added a small "community orchard" in our churchyard to help nature thrive. Each year, especially during our Harvest Festival, we focus on themes that highlight our commitment to caring for creation. However, we believe there's more we can do in the future. We recognize, along with A Rocha and many other churches, businesses, and organizations, that we are in the midst of a climate emergency. In response, we are committed to a process of continuous improvement to meet the highest possible Eco Church standards.

Trustees Financial Report for 2025

Parish Ministry Costs

We continued to fulfil our contribution to our Parish Ministry costs for 2025 making a payment of £84,416 to Chichester Diocesan Board of Finance (DBF). We thank all donors to St John's church who have enabled us to do this again for another year. For 2026 we have committed to pay a similar amount with a promise to increase this later in the year subject to successful additional fundraising for our Making Room project and general Church running costs.

The PCC expresses a heartfelt thank you to all who give up their time in running different ministries, providing hospitality, care and outreach and to those looking after our premises. The hard work of each and every one is much appreciated.

Financial Review

The total receipts on general unrestricted funds were £158,955 (2024 £193,711) and are detailed in the Financial Report. Expenditure was kept under careful management control and reduced 5% from 2024 levels to £173,356. Overall, there was a deficit on Unrestricted Funds of £14,401.

The value of our Tangible Fixed Assets at the end of 2025, £634,199 can be seen in Note 11.

Each year the Church's invested Endowment Funds are revalued and at 31st December they totalled £96,263; £5,000 lower than the previous year. See Note 10.

Total Funds of the Church at the 31st December 2025 were £783,573 (compared with £800,278 at the end of 2024).

Other highlights of the financial year:

The Hub contributed over £23,000 towards Church Funds despite significant cost inflation and an unfavourable economic climate. The Hub team are to be congratulated on achieving such vital income for the Church.

The Church took over responsibility for restoring the Lychgate and it is now recorded as an Asset in our Accounts. The restoration of the Lychgate has been warmly welcomed by the Village.

During the year our Outreach extended to Turners Hill as the Diocese asked St Johns to extend its Ministry to embrace St Leonards Church. This has placed extra pressure (and costs) on our management and ministry teams.

St Johns remains a beacon of hope in the community with many new Baptisms and Confirmations. The Alpha courses are all very well subscribed and we also support our community from cradle to grave with the Toddler Group and Bereavement Courses.

Outlook

The Church continues to incur annual cash flow deficits that will need to be addressed. The commitment to the Diocese to pay our full Parish Share is very important but for 2026, this payment has been held at 2025 levels until we are sure that we can sustain and increase. We are embarking on a fundraising initiative for a major renovation of the Church interior and this will be the focus of our attention for the next few years. During this period we will also need to find additional sources of regular income that provide for financial stability in the longer term.

Reserves Policy

It is the PCC's policy: to maintain a Net asset balance on the general unrestricted funds (excluding property) which equates to approximately three months' worth of unrestricted payments as contingency against unforeseen situations. The closing balance of £62,593 achieves this Policy.

To invest legacies restricted as to their objects with the churches, charities and local authorities financial provider, CCLA, until such time that suitable beneficiaries are identified by the PCC.

Structure, Governance and Management.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is registered with the Charity Commission as required by the Charities Act 2011. Its governing document is the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956. During the year the following served as members of the Parochial Church Council:

Ex Officio members:		
Incumbent:	The Rev'd Willem Mauritz	
Associate Vicar:	The Rev'd Alexandra Wheeler	
Assistant Curate:	The Rev'd Deacon Fiona Coldicott	
Wardens:	Mr David Hornsby	
	Mr Edward Redfern	Appointed 2025
Elected Members:	Mr Jonathan Brueton	Until 2027
	Mr Nigel Cramp	Until 2027
	Mrs Lesley Dawson	Until 2028
	Mrs Jean Ditchburn	Until 2028
	Mrs Anita Findon	Until 2028
	Mrs Margaret Jones	Until December 2025
	The Rev'd Elizabeth Logan	Until 2026
	Mr Michael Livesey	Until 2026
	Mrs Zoe McCann	Until 2028
	Ms Elizabeth Venter	Until 2028
	Mrs Jennifer Wharton	Until 2028
	Mrs Susan Williams	Until 2028
Appointed Members:	Mr Kerry Scott	Treasurer
	Mrs Maralyn Smith	Secretary
	Ms Laura Li	Resigned November 2025
Deanery Synod:	Mr Andrew Harpham	Until 2026
	Mr Ian Hornsby	Until 2026
	Mr John Wells	Until 2028

Eric Trevett is the church's Safeguarding Officer, who ensures he is up-to-date with Diocesan Safeguarding Policies and that the PCC is advised of any changes. In addition, Monica Polley maintains the DBS register of those working with children and vulnerable adults or in leadership roles at St. John's. We have recruited more youth workers, leaders and adult carers this year. We are enrolled on the Simple Quality Protects system with the diocese to maintain best practice.

Membership of the PCC is determined under the Church Representation Rules and consists of certain ex-officio members (the incumbent, curate, readers licensed to officiate in the church, the Churchwardens), members of the Deanery, Diocesan or General synods and 11 members of the church who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). Church members are warmly encouraged to stand for election to the PCC and we try to ensure a balance of skills and experience where possible.

This Trustee's Annual Report was approved by the PCC and signed on their behalf by Rev'd W Mauritz.



Date: 17 March 2026

Statement of Financial Activities

For the year ended 31 December 2025

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds	
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies	93,505	2,614	-	96,119	95,024	
Other trading activities	45,086	-	-	45,086	48,229	
Investments	8,719	3,777	-	12,496	12,816	
Income from charitable activities	11,645	-	-	11,645	14,517	
Other income	-	1,750	-	1,750	32,499	
Total income	158,955	8,141	-	167,096	203,085	2
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	1,828	-	-	1,828	250	
Exp. on charitable activities	138,376	4,906	-	143,282	145,425	
Other expenditure	1,893	540	-	2,433	7,861	
Trading activities	31,259	-	-	31,259	32,371	
Total expenditure	173,356	5,446	-	178,802	185,908	3
Net income / (expenditure)	(14,401)	2,695	-	(11,706)	17,177	
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	0	9
Other recognised gains / losses						
Gains/losses on investment assets	0	0	(5,000)	(5,000)	3,240	10
Net movement in funds	(14,401)	2,695	(5,000)	(16,706)	20,416	
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward	526,295	172,721	101,263	800,278	779,862	
Total funds carried forward	511,894	175,416	96,263	783,573	800,278	

Balance Sheet As at 31 December 2025

	Total Funds 2025	Total Funds 2024	Note
	£	£	
Tangible assets	634,199	629,562	11
Endowed investments	96,263	101,263	10
Total fixed assets	730,462	730,825	
Debtors	7,788	7,039	13
Cash at bank and in hand	52,702	70,195	
Total current assets	60,490	77,234	
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	7,380	(7,781)	14
Net current assets or (liabilities)	53,110	69,453	
Total assets less current liabilities	783,573	800,278	
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	-		
Provisions for liabilities	-		
Total net assets or (liabilities)	783,573	800,278	
The funds of the charity:			
Endowment funds	96,263	101,263	
Restricted income funds	175,416	172,749	
Unrestricted funds	511,894	526,266	
Revaluation reserve	-		
Total charity funds	783,573	800,278	12,16

The notes on pages 31 to 42 form part of these accounts.

This Financial Report for the year ended 31st December 2025, including the notes following, was approved by the PCC and signed on its behalf by The Revd. Willem Mauritz.



Date 17 March 2026

1 Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS102. The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and the Church Accounting Regulations 2006, in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the current Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities, (SORP (FRS 102)).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention as modified by the inclusion of investments at market value. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their affiliation to another body, nor those which are informal gatherings of church members.

Funds accounting

Funds held by the PCC are:

Unrestricted funds - general funds which can be used for ordinary purposes.

Designated funds - monies set aside out of unrestricted funds for specific future purposes or projects.

Restricted funds - a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest; b) donations or grants received for a specific object or invited for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of the year is carried forward as a balance on that fund.

Endowment funds - funds for which the capital must be maintained; only income arising from the investment of the endowment may be used, either as restricted or unrestricted funds, depending on the purpose set out in the terms of the original endowment.

Income and endowments

All income and endowments, accounted for without deduction for any costs of receivability, are recognised when there is evidence of entitlement, receipt is probable, and the amount can be measured reliably.

Donations and legacies

Collections are recognised when received.

Planned giving receivable is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement, receipt is probable, and the amount accords with the Gift Aid declaration or other record of intention to donate.

Gift aid recovered is recognised when the income to which it is attached is recognised.

Grants and legacies are recognised when the formal offer in writing of the funding, is received.

Charitable activities

Statutory fees for weddings and funerals are recognised when the office occurs. Rental fees are recognised in accordance with the rental agreement, when receipt is probable.

Other trading activities

Trading activities are where income is receivable in return for selling goods or providing services. Income from trading is recognised when received.

Rents from property are recognised in accordance with the rental agreements, when receipt is probable.

Investment income

Dividends are accounted for when due and payable. Interest entitlements are accounted for as they accrue.

All other income

All other income is recognised in accordance with the above overall policy.

Gains and losses on investments

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Realised gains are recognised when the investments are sold. Unrealised gains and losses are accounted for on revaluation at 31 December.

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement, payment is probable, and the amount can be measured reliably.

Grants

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded where the award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

Church activities

The diocesan parish contribution is accounted for on an annual basis.

Fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets

Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from the accounts by s.10(2) of the Charities Act 2011.

Movable church furnishing held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal, are accounted as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the church's inventory which can be inspected but are not included in the financial statements. For other property acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore the cost of such assets is not stated in the financial statements.

All expenditure on consecrated or beneficed buildings and individual items costing under £2000 are written off in the year they were incurred.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated to write down the cost of tangible fixed assets, excluding freehold properties, over their expected useful lives. The rates generally applicable are:

Land and buildings	Nil
Fixtures and fittings	25%
Audio visual equipment	25%
Office Equipment	33%
Air Conditioning in the Hub	10%

No depreciation is provided on freehold buildings as the useful economic life of these assets exceeds 50 years and residual values so high that potential depreciation would be immaterial. It is the PCC's policy to maintain these assets in a continual state of sound repair. Resulting from regular impairment reviews, provision will be made if there has been any permanent diminution in value.

Investments

Investments are stated at market value at the balance sheet date.

Current Assets

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31 December in respect of fees, rents or other income are shown as debtors, less provision for amounts that may prove non-collectable.

Short-term deposits include cash held on deposit either with the CBF Church of England Funds, or at the bank.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

2. Analysis of income and endowments

£	General	Designated	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds	Total Funds
	Fund	Fund/s	Funds	Funds	2025	2024
Planned giving	58,311	2,945	61,256	-	61,256	62,648
Loose cash collections	3,706	-	3,706	-	3,706	4,579
Other special appeals	10,188	48	10,236	2,360	12,596	7,437
Gift Aid recoverable	16,079	-	16,079	253	16,332	15,579
Legacies	-	-	-	-	-	2,000
Other Funds Generated	2,055	174	2,229	-	2,229	2,781
Donations and legacies	90,339	3,167	93,505	2,613	96,119	95,024
Weddings & funeral fees	5,935	-	5,935	-	5,935	7,854
Fund raising	5,710	-	5,710	-	5,710	6,663
Charitable activities	11,645	-	11,645	-	11,645	14,517
Parish hub hiring fees	-	36,417	36,417		36,417	37,295
Magazine advertising fees	8,669	-	8,669		8,669	10,934
Other trading activities	8,669	36,417	45,086	-	45,086	48,229
Interest Income	869	-	869	3,777	4,646	5,316
Rent for South Room	-	7,850	7,850		7,850	7,500
Investments	869	7,850	8,719	3,777	12,496	12,816
Other Income - Grants	-	-	-	1,750	1,750	32,499
Total income	111,521	47,434	158,955	8,141	167,096	203,085

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

3. Analysis of expenditure

£	General	Designated	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total Funds
	Fund	Funds	Total Funds	Funds	2025	2024
Fundraising costs	1,828	-	1,828	-	1,828	4,216
Cost of raising funds	1,828	-	1,828	-	1,828	4,216
Grants and Donations	2,276	-	2,276	-	2,276	1,786
Mission & evangelism costs	2,682	-	2,682	-	2,682	1,489
Diocesan parish share	84,416	-	84,416	-	84,416	81,169
Clergy expenses	3,071	-	3,071	-	3,071	4,690
Salaries and honoraria incl NI	21,776	-	21,776	-	21,776	19,681
Upkeep of services	6,925	-	6,925	-	6,925	5,840
Church running costs	11,503	-	11,503	-	11,503	10,523
Church maintenance and repair	-	-	-	2,220	2,220	724
Upkeep of churchyard	-	-	-	2,636	2,636	3,260
Wedding & funeral fees & costs	1,104	-	1,104	50	1,154	2,232
Parsonage costs	3,893	-	3,893	-	3,893	3,109
Governance	730	-	730	-	730	925
Cost of charitable activities	138,376	-	138,376	4,906	143,282	135,429
Depreciation	-	1,796	1,796	-	1,796	7,861
Parish hub running costs	-	21,075	21,075	-	21,075	21,127
Parish magazine costs	10,184	-	10,184	-	10,184	11,245
Loan interest	-	-	-	-	-	0
Cost of other trading activities	10,184	21,075	31,259	-	31,259	32,371
Church Building Costs	97	-	97	540	637	4,500
Total expended on all funds	150,485	22,871	173,356	5,446	178,802	185,908

4. Missionary and charitable giving

	Total	Total Funds
	Funds	
	2025 £	2024 £
Church Mission Society - Rehema	1,892	1,191
Donations of Bibles	1,785	1,775
Compassion UK	384	384
Bereavement Support	401	435
Art Group	288	
Other charities	209	1,022
Total	4,958	4,807

5. Staff costs

£	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds	Total Funds
	Funds	Funds	2025	2024
Remuneration				
<i>Wages, salaries, tax, NI and pension costs</i>	35,261	2,196	37,817	35,075

No person received remuneration in excess of £60,000.

6. Payments to PCC members

Salary payments totalling £14,565 were made to three members of staff listed below who are also members of the PCC.

Mrs M Smith, the Church Manager

Mrs L Dawson, a Verger at Weddings and Funerals

Other payments were made to PCC members in the year for reimbursement of expenses incurred on behalf of the PCC:

Clergy support costs: Council tax £3,692 water rates £201, travel and other miscellaneous expenses £3,071.

7. Transactions with related charities

There were no transactions with related charities in 2025.

8. Governance

	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Independent Examination	(estimated)730	925

The Independent Examiner will submit her Invoice when the Accounts are finally examined and approved.

9. Transfers between funds

Transfers totalling £30,000 were made from the Designated Hub Fund to the General Fund to ensure that the General Fund retained a positive balance at year end.

10. Fixed assets – Investments

£	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowed Funds	Total Funds 2025
Market value 1 January 2025			101,263	101,263
Disposals at carrying value			-	-
Purchases at cost			-	-
Net losses on revaluation			5,000	5,000
Market value 31 December 2025			96,263	96,263

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

11. Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings	Audio visual equipment	Hub Air Conditioning	Total fixed assets
£	£	£		£
Original cost or valuation				
At 1 January 2025	588,777	24,261	11,576	624,614
Additions	31,055		6,383	37,438
Disposals	-	-	-	-
Revaluation	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2025	619,832	24,261	17,959	662,052
Charge for impairment				
At 1 January 2025	-	24,261	1,796	26,067
Charge for Impairment	-	-	1,796	1,796
Disposals	-	-		-
Revaluation	-	-		-
At 31 December 2025	-	24,261	3,592	27,853
Net book amounts				
At 31 December 2025	619,832	-	14,376	634,199
At 31 December 2024	613,399	-	16,163	629,562

The freehold land and buildings comprise the Parish Hub building and the Lychgate. The historical cost of this property was £595,210. In the opinion of the PCC its current market value is estimated to be in excess of the historical cost.

12. Net assets by fund

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowed	Total Funds	Total Funds
	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Fund/s</u>	<u>Fund/s</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets for church use	449,301	184,898		634,199	629,562
Investment fixed assets	-	-	96,263	96,263	101,263
Current assets (except cash)	22,321	(14,633)	-	7,688	7,040
Cash, at bank and on deposit	48,459	4,243	-	52,702	70,194
Current liabilities	8,188	(907)	-	7,281	(7,781)
Long term liabilities	-	-	-	-	-
Total	528,269	173,601	96,263	783,573	800,278

13. Debtors

Debtors	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds	Total Funds
	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Fund/s</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Giftaid Due	2,180	-	2,180	2,870
Hub recharges due	1,065	-	1,065	1,302
Hub Rental Fees Due	1,164	-	1,164	168
Interest Income	3	367	370	545
Christmas Period Income	1,432	-	1,432	1,543
Amounts owing by St Leonards Church	1,041	-	1,041	-
Sundry Debtors and Prepayments	536	-	536	611
Total	7,421	367	7,788	7,039

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

14. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

Creditors	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds	Total Funds
	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Fund/s</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
	£	£	£	£
Prepayments for Weddings and Funerals	100		100	100
Hub Deposits held	2,050		2,050	2,400
Clergy Expenses Due	892		892	443
Copthorne Village		32	32	32
HMRC PAYE due	1,005	79	1,084	887
Diocesan Fees Due	301		301	971
Church Heating and Lighting	1,781		1,781	
Hub Electric and Gas	440		440	
Sundry Creditors	700		700	2,947
	7,269	111	7,380	7,781

15. 2024 Comparatives for the statement of financial activities

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowed	Total Funds
	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Fund/s</u>	<u>Fund/s</u>	<u>2024</u>
	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	91,858	3,166	0	95,024
Charitable activities	48,229	0	0	48,229
Other trading activities	7,798	5,018	0	12,816
Investments	14,327	190	0	14,517
Other receipts	31,499	1,000	0	32,499
Total income	193,711	9,373	0	203,085
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	3,654	562	0	250
Charitable activities	137,735	3,725	0	145,425
Other trading activities	7,861	0	0	7,861
Other expenditure	32,371	0	0	32,371
Total expenditure	181,621	4,287	0	185,908
Net gains (or losses) on investments			3,240	3,240
Net income or (net expenditure)	12,090	5,086	3,240	20,416
Transfers between funds	48,935	(48,935)	0	0
Net movement in funds	61,025	(43,849)	3,240	20,416
Total funds brought forward	465,241	216,598	98,023	779,862
Total funds carried forward	526,266	172,749	101,263	800,278

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

16. Statement of funds

Fund income and expenditure and final balances are as follows:

	Balances	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balances
	1st January 2025			Or Revaluations	31st December 2025
	£				
Faith Arnold trust	55,755			(3,189)	52,566
Payne grave fund	300			-	300
Churchyard trust	45,208			(1,811)	43,398
Total of all endowed funds	101,263			(5,000)	96,263
Fabric fund	10,192	1,645	2,760	-	9,077
Making Room Fund	-		-	-	-
Building fund	157,885			-	157,885
Lychgate Fund	4,644	3,363	-		8,007
Churchyard fund	-	3,132	2,686	-	446
Total of all restricted funds	172,721	8,141	5,446	-	175,416
General fund	19,073	111,521	150,485	30,000	10,109
Hub Fund	42,027	44,489	22,871	(30,000.00)	33,645
Designated building fund	460,321	2,945	-	-	463,266
Legacy fund	4,874	-	-	-	4,874
Total of all unrestricted funds	526,295	158,955	173,356	-	511,894
Total funds	800,278	167,096	178,802	(5,000)	783,573

Explanation of funds

Endowed funds are required by the donors to be invested and the income spent on specific objectives

The Faith Arnold trust is a permanent endowment, invested in CBF Investment Fund shares, which requires the income to be spent on the maintenance and improvement of the church building.

The Payne grave fund is a permanent endowment, invested in CBF Investment Fund shares, which requires the income to be spent on the maintenance of the churchyard.

The Churchyard trust is a permanent endowment, invested in CBF Investment Fund shares, which requires the income to be spent on the churchyard and outdoor areas.

Restricted funds are not invested permanently but are to be spent within reasonable timescales.

The Annex fund is restricted to the *Link* project to extend the church building, increase the space available for worship and provide a more flexible and functional space. This Fund was extinguished in 2024 after the donors agreed that its funds could be used for any building or fabric development for the Church.

The Building fund is restricted and was used to fund the development of the church office.

The Fabric Fund is restricted to the maintenance and improvement of the church building.

The Churchyard Fund is restricted to the maintenance of the churchyard and outdoor areas.

The Lychgate Fund was established in 2024 following the transfer of responsibility to the Church for maintaining and restoring the Lychgate.

The Annex Fund which was suspended with a zero balance in 2024 has been renamed the Making Room Fund and will provide for the Re-ordering project being carried out in the interior of the Church.

Unrestricted funds are not subject to any donor restrictions and can be spent as the PCC decides.

The unrestricted fund includes amounts designated for the building of the Parish Hub, and also an unrestricted legacy which has been set aside for specific uses to be determined by the PCC.

Accounts



GROWING IN LOVE for God & each other



(Nine Lessons & Carols Service 2024)

Annual Parochial Church Reports 2024

Charity Number 1155185



**Annual Vestry & Parochial Church Meeting
to be held in Church on 6th April 2025
from 11.30am**

Agenda

Annual Vestry Meeting

Minutes of Annual Vestry Meeting 2024	P 4
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Election of Churchwardens (2)	P 4
.....	

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Apologies	P 4
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Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2024	P 4
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Matters arising	P 4
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Electoral Roll - accept new Roll 121

Reports:

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Pastoral	P 7
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Wardens	p 7
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Parish Office	P 8
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Safeguarding	P 9
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Mission, Evangelism and Discipleship	P 9
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Coffee Mornings, St John's Café & Games and Abstract Art Group	P 10
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Choir	P 11
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..... Ladies Ministry	P 11
..... Youth	P 12
..... Children	P 12
..... Toddler Time	P 12
..... cots2tots	P 13
..... The Parish Hub	P 13
..... Building Team	P 14
..... Social Events	p 15
..... Mission Partners	P 15
..... Deanery Synod	P 16
..... Legal Documentation	P 18
..... Trustees Annual Report and Financial Report	P 19

Questions arising from the Reports

Appointment of Treasurer & Secretary

Appointment of Safeguarding Officer

Election of PCC members

(at Copthorne, for the sake of continuity, if not otherwise elected, the PCC Secretary & Treasurer are co-opted positions)

Appointment of Sidespersons

Appointment of Independent Examiner

Any Other Business

**Copy of the record of the Minutes of
The Annual Vestry Meeting
held in the Church at 7.30pm
Tuesday 19th March 2024**

The meeting was conducted by Alex Wheeler (Associate Vicar) in the presence of 23 parishioners. Alex explained that Wim (Vicar) apologised for being absent as he was on retreat for the week.

The Minutes of the Vestry Meeting of Tuesday 28th March 2023 were unanimously approved. Proposer: Mike Livesey, Seconder: Jenny Wharton.

Mr David Hornsby (proposed by Andy Harpham and seconded by Sandra Cramp) and Mrs Gillian Hodsdon (proposed by Lesley Dawson and seconded by Paul Simmons) were unanimously elected as there were no other nominations and duly appointed wardens for the coming year. Gillian informed everyone that this would be her last year as warden.

Alex thanked David and Gillian for all their hard work and support over the past year.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.45pm.

Cathy Sexton, PCC Secretary, 17th April 2024

**Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Held on Tuesday 19th March 2024
At 7.45pm in the Church**

Attendance:

The meeting was conducted by Alex Wheeler (Associate Vicar) and attended by 23 parishioners.

Apologies:

Received from: Fi Coldicott, David and Wendy Colville, Elizabeth Comber, Doreen Croft, Ann and Piers De Legh, John and Val Edwards, Andy Harpham, Wim Mauritz, Monica and Richard Polley, Maggie Prior, Chris Wheatley

MINUTES:

Formal business:

Apologies as noted were accepted.

Proposal: That the Minutes of the APCM 2023 be accepted.

Proposed: Kerry Scott

Seconded: Mary Smith

Unanimously agreed.

There were no matters arising from the 2023 minutes.

Electoral Roll – It was unanimously agreed that we accept the Roll of 131 members.

Proposed: Nigel Cramp

Seconded: Jenny Wharton

REPORTS:

Financial Reports and Accounts:

Kerry stated there may be a few changes to the Trustees Report following the independent examiner review as the accounts have moved to a cloud based system and the Hub accounts have been separated from the Church accounts to show the income from the Hub separately. The Hub assets have been boosted this year with the addition of air conditioning. Kerry thanked Nigel for all his hard work throughout the year. The current examiner, Fionna Thomson, is moving from the village and a replacement has been found. Mike asked how much money in the Annex Fund would need to be repaid to the donors and Kerry explained that it was about £4,000 but there were still a few days for people to request their money so the final figure was not yet available. Mike asked what the Parish Share for this year would be and Kerry said it would be about £81,000. Mike asked about the Faith Arnold Fund. It is a restricted fund so he wished to know what it could be spent on. Kerry explained there was no specific definition but the funds were paid into the Fabric fund and spent on maintenance. Mike pointed out that the Parish magazine costs were £3,000 higher than the advertising revenue and asked if this was sustainable. Kerry said it was not sustainable long term but would need to be looked at by the PCC. Nigel said that the largest cost was the paper and that this could be reduced. Sharon asked if it could be put online but Carol felt that it would then not be looked at and Kerry thought that this would not get the advertisers who currently know the magazine is distributed to a certain number of houses.

Annual Report 2024

It was unanimously agreed that all reports – Trustees Annual Report; Financial Report and Accounts; Vicar; Pastoral; Wardens; Parish Office; Safeguarding; Mission, Evangelism and Discipleship; Coffee Mornings, St John's Café & Games and Abstract Art Group; Choir; Youth; Children and Forest Church; The Parish Hub; Building Team – Solar Panels; Social Events; Mission Partners; Deanery Synod; and Legal Documentation – as previously circulated, were accepted.

Proposed: Jenny Wharton

Seconded: Janet Scott

Elections

PCC

Nigel Cramp (proposed by David Hornsby and seconded by Gillian Hodsdon) and Jon Brueton (proposed by David Hornsby and seconded by Gillian Hodsdon) were unanimously re-elected to the PCC. Liz Logan, who had been co-opted onto the PCC during the year, (proposed by Paul Simmons and seconded by Monica Polley) and Margaret Jones (proposed by David Hornsby and seconded by Sue Williams) were unanimously elected to the PCC.

Appointment of Treasurer and PCC Secretary

It was unanimously agreed that Kerry Scott be appointed **Treasurer**

It was unanimously agreed that Maralyn Smith be appointed **PCC Secretary**

It was unanimously agreed that Eric Trevett be appointed **Safeguarding Officer**.

Appointment of Verdant Accountants as Independent Examiner

Proposed by Kerry Scott

Seconded by David Hornsby

Any Other Business

Sandra thanked the clergy, PCC and everyone involved for making the church run smoothly. She asked when the list of names for the memorial garden would be completed and it was explained that once the re-formatted design had been returned, the names would be updated.

Mary asked if the APCM could be moved to take place on a Sunday after a joint service to encourage younger members of the congregation to attend. This will be discussed and decided upon.

Mike explained that once trained, servers should be invisible and therefore wanted to thank them for their contribution to the services.

Mike said that some parishioners were disquieted that the Good Friday service was described as a 'fun' service as it was felt that this was more appropriate for Easter Sunday and that the service on Good Friday should be a solemn service. Alex acknowledged the change was very different to previous years but that there would be a time for quiet reflection in the afternoon instead of the morning. Sharon felt that this quiet reflection should be in the morning rather than the afternoon and asked if the cross was to be taken to the Green. David said he believed this would be happening but did not know at what time. Gillian pointed out that the Good Friday service used to be a Family Service with children's activities and a solemn reflective service in the afternoon so not a 'fun' service but a child orientated service.

David thanked Nigel for all his hard work over the years as he retires from working in the office and Cathy as she stands down as secretary.

There being no further business, the meeting closed with the saying of the Grace at 8.45pm.

Cathy Sexton, PCC Secretary

From the Vicar:

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." (John 13 v 34-35, NIV-UK)

2024 was another remarkable year for our church community. We continued to be a very multicultural church relevant to all people of our local community. A healthy identity of a church is when it is recognised by outsiders in its love for one another. It has been our vision for the past five years to grow in love for God and each other. Looking back, I do believe that God in His mercy has given us this growth in love. In the past years I have been asking many people what attracted them to come and worship at our church. Most responses that I got back were along the lines of, "the love, acceptance and gentleness given to them when we joined the church for the first time". This deep sense of acceptance, love and kindness are powerful gifts of the Holy Spirit. God is in us and at work among us when we demonstrate this genuine love for Him and for each other. This then becomes a testimony to others of a genuine discipleship of Jesus Christ. My prayer is may we continue in humility to grow in this love for the people around us.

This past year we continued to flourish in our mission and evangelism events. We again ran three different Alpha courses, a Marriage prep course, five Baptism and Confirmation classes and again a Bereavement course. Many people gave generously of their time and resources so that much of our social activities could again take place at our premises. We continued with our weekly church services, Café sessions, Toddler Time, Coffee mornings as well as regular church lunches and suppers. We had again our annual Jazz on the Green, Carnival Teas at the Hub, our Harvest Festival and Quiz nights. In February we had a visit from The Oddments Theatre Company. Their performance of 'The Hiding Place' was very well attended and very moving. In the Autumn we set up a new English Language Class. This runs weekly on a Tuesday and a Thursday and is well attended by refugees. Monthly we motivated each other again to join in with the working party, looking after our churchyard and planted our new church orchard besides the Parish Hub. None of these events and activities would have been possible without the joyful and faithful commitments of the many staff and volunteers; people who, with great dedication carry out our admin, cleaning, flower, music, coffee, AV rotas, etc. It is the commitment and support of so many of us coming together as one to love and

care that makes this ministry an exciting church to be part of. I am incredibly grateful and want to express a huge thank you to all of you at St John's who are involved in our local expression of this oneness. Thanks again to all of you for demonstrating a genuine desire of, 'Growing in love for God and each other.'

Wim Mauritz

Pastoral

Over the past year we have continued to develop our pastoral work to meet the needs of the church community and beyond.

The Bereavement Group continues to meet each month in the South Room at the Parish Hub. Numbers vary according to need and we have continued to welcome village as well as church members. New members join from the groups formed in our bereavement courses. **The Bereavement Journey** was run twice this year (one daytime one evening), with funding kindly provided by Worth Parish Council. This has helped us to fulfil our objective to reach out more widely outside the church. One to one bereavement support is provided if required and the Associate Vicar continues to follow up the newly bereaved as needed. Those who have been bereaved during the year were invited to our 'All Souls' Service in November.

Clergy and lay team members make regular visits to those who can no longer attend church services due to poor health. This service is very much appreciated. We also offer opportunities for prayer for healing with laying on of hands and anointing with oil.

Pastoral home visiting is mainly carried out by the clergy- currently the Associate Vicar supports the incumbent in this work. A couple of members of the congregation also follow up with particular people in need, either by visits or regular telephone calls. Our pastoral work continues to be linked in closely with our prayer circle, led by Monica Polley, so that those asking for prayer from within the church family also receive pastoral follow up as appropriate.

Our prayer ministry team continues to offer individual prayer during Communion each Sunday at 9.30am and monthly at 11.00am.

The clergy offer support for those at the end of their life and their families, as requested.

Our curate, Revd Deacon Fiona Coldicott, has maintained our ministry to Heatherley Cheshire Home, supported by two members of the church on a fortnightly basis to offer a short service with Holy Communion. The residents very much enjoyed their Christmas carol service this year.

Our curate has begun to trial a chaplaincy service on a fortnightly basis in Copthorne Hotel to establish a listening ministry for asylum seekers and refugees. A pastoral ministry is also offered to those from the hotel attending St John's Church, led by the incumbent and supported by other members of the team.

Revd Alexandra Wheeler, Associate Vicar

Church Wardens

As we come around to another APCM, it gives us time to reflect that we continue to be a busy, vibrant and diverse community of God here in Copthorne. Whilst, at times, this can be tiring (bordering on exhausting) for all involved in the day to day running of our Church, it remains

rewarding and satisfying to touch so many lives and to deliver the Good News in so many different ways... truly meeting people where they are on their Christian journeys.

Church Services

All our core Church services continue to be well attended and supported. All of them have their own distinct feel but all provide space to explore, learn, grow and worship God in faith. Whether it be one of our Sunday services or our Wednesday communion, we have seen steady or increasing numbers in all areas throughout the year.

When our congregations come together for special services, our Church can feel full to bursting and our annual Remembrance Service is so big we now are forced to hold it outside, as numbers have outgrown the Church building. This is absolutely the right problem to have!

Our Christmas services are always a highlight of the year, and this year saw numbers increase across all services. From the Christingle, again supported by the Copthorne Silver Band, to the lively and chaotic atmosphere in the Crib Service or the quieter moments during the Nine Lessons or Midnight Services all bring that truly special message to our community and beyond.

Other weekly activities

As well as our formal services the vibrant life of our Church is always enhanced by the many other activities that are hosted in our Church. There is very rarely any day of the week when there is not a form of other ministry happening in our Church. Programmes have included Prayer, Alpha and bereavement courses; parent and toddler groups; weekly games and social time; English language classes to support our friends in the hotel; exploring faith through abstract art, and screening The Chosen (a series telling the story of Jesus through film).

All our activities, whilst not formal worship, are bringing the Good News to our community in one way or another. I would encourage everyone during this year (if not already doing so) to try and go along to one or more of these activities and to try something new. You will always receive a warm welcome!

Social events, working parties and coffee mornings

From quizzes to lunches, the annual village carnival to our own Flower and Produce Show/Harvest Fair weekend, throughout the year there is a wide range of social activities within our Church. Every one of these is an opportunity to join together in fellowship (whether that be sitting eating lunch or putting up tents and tables or washing up for carnival). It also offers an outreach to our community and especially to those who "don't do Church". Thanks, must be given to all who get involved in organising these events and especially to the Social team who co-ordinate and plan both the programme and the execution of these events so well.

Our monthly working party and coffee morning continues to help keep our Church yard and Church in good order. We want to say a massive thank you to all those who faithfully support our working parties - it never ceases to amaze how much is achieved in just one morning, even when sometimes we have just a few people there! As always, we welcome new members to the team and there are tasks inside and outside which can be skilled/unskilled and involve varying levels of physical exertion.

2025 a new vision or rather the same vision but refreshed...

During the early part of 2025 we will be looking to refresh our vision and focus at St John's for the next few years. Watch this space for more details, but our aim of 'Growing in love for God and each other' continues to be at the heart of all we do at St. John's...

Thank you

Firstly, a big thank you to all who contribute in any way to the life of our Church, whether it be financially or through volunteering or just simply by being at one of our services or events. We particularly want to thank the office staff and anyone who is on one of our rotas, be that flowers, cleaning, serving, prayer ministry, coffee, AV support, children's/youth work or welcoming. All these roles are vital to support our ministry here at St Johns. If you feel you could join one (or another one) of our rotas at any point do talk to us or the office, as help is always needed and appreciated.

Furthermore, we would like to thank Wim and our ever-dedicated clergy team; the choir, organists and other musicians; leaders and readers who bring variety and life to our worship and services. Finally, as Gillian comes to the end of her term as Churchwarden, I would like to personally thank her for all the support and the huge dedication she has shown in an often-demanding role. Much of what Gillian does is unseen but all of it has been massively appreciated!

David Hornsby and Gillian Hodsdon, Churchwardens

Parish Office

There were a couple of changes in 2024 seeing Nigel retire and Jo leave for pastures new. The office is now staffed by the Church Manager Maralyn Smith, and new Church Administrator Laura Li.

The church office is very busy supporting the community who worship and gather here, including: our regular worshipping communities on Wednesday and Sunday services, residents from the Copthorne Hotel, and English Language classes. We are also the first point of contact for baptisms, weddings, funerals, and interment of ashes.

ChurchSuite continues to be the main way we organize and manage the administration of our church activities including bookings, event management and communications. We send out a weekly newsletter to around 400 people.

Since Nigel's departure we have taken over responsibility for managing the Parish Magazine distribution and invoicing. It is published every two months and provides a gentle rhythm throughout the year.

A big part of our work is helping residents from the hotel deal with the Home Office and access support around education and housing.

Maralyn Smith, Church Manager

I joined St John the Evangelist in June 2024 working on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. I have come from Churches in the City of London so some of what we do here was familiar to me and some of it was very new. I have already experienced some of the issues that come along with having an open churchyard!

Everybody has been very welcoming, and I found it easy to settle in although only working 2 days a week it has taken some time to fully get to grips with all the tasks. At the time of writing, I am just starting to support the work of the PCC more directly by taking minutes at PCC meetings.

Maralyn, of course, has been wonderful at showing me the ropes and answering my many questions. A big thank you also goes to Nigel who spent a lot of his own time teaching me particular aspects of the job.

Laura Li, Church Administrator

Safeguarding

Casework:

No cases of concern, or otherwise requiring action from the Safeguarding Officer, have been identified in the period since the last APCM.

Training:

Safeguarding training, at the appropriate level, has been undertaken as required.

DBS:

As the year progressed, all those new to roles that require a DBS have been identified, and certificates obtained. Renewals are monitored, actioned as required and are up to date.

Eric Trevett and Monica Polley

Mission, Evangelism and Discipleship

In 2024 we had three Alpha Courses, one each term (Jan-Mar, May-Jul & Sept-Nov). Alpha is for anyone who's curious. The talks are designed to encourage conversation and explore the basics of the Christian faith in a friendly, open and informal environment. No question is out of bounds and people are free to discuss as much or as little as they wish. Alpha runs in our church building. Each session starts with a short video and a discussion in a small group where you can share your thoughts.

We have seen several people coming to faith in Jesus Christ and this has continued to be a great joy to our church community. We held five Baptism and Confirmation preparation classes, had candidates baptised (35 adults and 13 children) and a further 45 candidates were confirmed in services in May at Worth Abbey led by the Bishop of Chichester and in November at our own church by the Bishop of Horsham. In 2024 we organized another Marriage preparation course for 5 couples who got married at St John's in the months following.

We also held regular assemblies at Copthorne Junior School and invited St John's Sunshine Pre-School, Fairway Infant School and the Junior School back into church to hold special church services for the school children. We held several events for the young and old of our local uniformed organisations in which they learned about the Christian faith or participated in church services. All this has been a great encouragement, and we have seen lives transformed by the Good News of Jesus Christ and the generosity and kindness of our church community.

Wim Mauritz

Coffee Bar, St John's Café & Games and Abstract Art Group

The Coffee Bar has been running for two years and meets outside the Church on Tuesday and Thursday mornings between 8.30 – 9.00am.

There is a regular group of people who have formed close friendships and chat about everything and anything! Many are dog walkers as well as parents passing by on their way to take children to school or pre-school.

So.... if you are free, or at a loose end, please come along and join us for a nice cup of tea (or coffee) and a chat too! We would love to see you!

Jennifer Wharton

Games Night has continued to run at St John's church each Wednesday from 4:30-6:00pm since it was started in May 2023. It is primarily offered as a way of connecting with the asylum seeker and refugee community in Copthorne, offering them a safe and welcoming place to come together in the community and to practice their English with local villagers.

We offer an informal games evening where people of all ages and nationalities are invited to play games, have the opportunity for English conversation and share refreshments. The Games Night is popular with families, whose children particularly enjoy the chance to win small prizes in bingo whilst practising their numbers in English. There is a St John's Café and Games WhatsApp Group that is used to communicate information regarding the Games Night and is regularly updated with reminders that it is running and notification of the occasional time that it has not been possible to run this. There are 70 members currently in the group and new attendees are offered the chance to join this group so that they can be updated on Games Night and other village events. Members are left to remove themselves from the group when they move on from Copthorne or no longer wish to receive updates and the group is moderated by church leaders.

Most recently, the evening has been attended primarily by Farsi and Persian speakers, although we have had a wide range of nationalities speaking many languages attend sessions. I usually bring my 10 year old daughter and her friend and they enjoy helping out with the group and helping to set up refreshments and run the games. When younger children attend, toys are put out alongside the tables so that youngsters too young to take part in games have an activity to occupy them.

Please do come along and say hello on a Wednesday afternoon – we would welcome any extra attendees and supporters.

Aelwen Lavictoire

The Abstract Art Group meets in Church on Tuesday and Friday mornings from 10am – 12 noon. All art materials are supplied including canvases, acrylic paints, watercolours and pastels.

Painting is a wonderful form of relaxation which focuses the mind. You don't have to be an artist either, but you will be surprised at what you can do using a technique of canvas, tape and three favourite colours – you will produce a work of art!

The Group is open to everyone inside and outside the church and all abilities are invited. You can expect a cuppa and a very warm welcome too!

Jennifer Wharton

Choir

The choir have been involved in leading the sung worship at the usual 9.30 am services, along with some of the more major events in the church year. These include the Agape service on Maundy Thursday, Easter Day and our traditional Nine Lessons and Carols service which was well attended and followed by some festive mulled wine and mince pies.

The choir have also been requested to sing at a number of weddings, wedding blessings and funerals throughout the year.

Our thanks go to our wonderful team of organists Ann, Carol and David who have ably supported us throughout the year, but who have also sung as part of the choir. Sadly, this year saw the passing of Derek Pinfield, who was a much loved member of our choir and who is greatly missed.

We welcome Kevin who is our newest choir member, and we would love to hear from anyone who would be interested in coming to join us.

Thanks go to the Copthorne Silver Band who have played for us to lead the music for the Remembrance Service, and also the Christingle Service which was followed by a concert of Christmas music.

My personal thanks go to all of those who have dutifully attended monthly practices, turning out in all weathers (and temperatures!) and we look forward to bringing you much more music in 2025.

Lesley Dawson

Ladies Ministry

A special ladies' event was hosted by Juliet Searle and Rev Fi Coldicott on 11th May 2024, helped by volunteers. A buffet breakfast was provided. The theme was: Discover How to Reconnect: an opportunity to reconnect with God, each other and ourselves, based on the 'Putting Pieces Together' material by Loving Christ Ministries. We spent time exploring the premise that competing priorities lead to disconnectedness and emptiness - we feel disconnected to God and even ourselves.

We used teaching material, short activities, worship and prayer stations to engage with the theme. We were encouraged to be intentional about our spiritual life, and hand over the control, submitting to what God, as a good Father, wants for us.

27 ladies attended the event, with positive feedback such as:

'I got an opportunity to stop and reconnect with myself, but also to reflect on my life and purpose.'

'Loved having the bible readings to ponder and then something physical to put our thoughts down... the post-its, floating flowers, candles etc. Great to also have the brunch and time to connect with friends.'

Later in the year, Kirsty Mauritz hosted a creative event on Saturday 12th October. The theme was 'Discover Mindful Creativity': an autumn leaves 'art by accident' workshop with worship and prayer. A buffet breakfast was provided, and ladies were encouraged to make leaf prints with ink, following a series of mindful processes, and to connect with others.

22 ladies attended the event, which was greatly appreciated by all who came. More 'Discover ladies' events will be offered in the future! With thanks to Juliet and Kirsty, and all our volunteers who helped to make these events so special.

Fi Coldicott

Youth

The youth group meet during the 11am service. Catering for year 6 and above, we spend time chatting, reading the bible and praying. Once a term we have a games morning and love to play rounders.

This year we have explored our identity in Christ using a series called "I am..." Towards the end of the year we followed the sermon series on the parables, having our own discussion times, during the sermon.

As a social event, we enjoyed a movie night, cooking sausages on an open fire in the churchyard, followed by a classic 1980's film in the church.

We look forward to 2025.

The Youth Team

Children

I took on the oversight of this group in the summer of 2024. There is a committed and enthusiastic team of five leaders and four helpers who work with the children of primary school age. The children meet in the Hub, and have a group session three weeks out of four in term time, with the first Sunday being an all-age baptism service. Last year when Brick Church was running they also attended this service once a month.

Until January 2025 the group were following the same theme as the adults in the services. The animated videos in the services were working well as an introduction to the theme for the day. The children enjoy the activities of a Bible story, usually with a video clip, singing and a chat. They play games and have an age-appropriate writing/colouring craft activity.

In October they joined with the young people's group to have a joint games morning session led by Kirsty and her team. They met outside in the church grounds, which they really enjoyed.

In January 2025 Lizzie Jakeman took oversight of the group. Lizzie is getting to know the team and the children in the group. This year the leaders and helpers will be using material from the Jesus Story Book Bible, which also engages the children with video clips and activity sheets on the Bible passage.

This year Janina needed to step down from her role as a helper in the group. With thanks to Janina for her work in the group, to Lizzie for taking on the leadership oversight role, and to all our

volunteers who minister to our children with care, respect and enthusiasm week by week. You are greatly appreciated!

Fi Coldicott

Toddler Time

Toddler Time started in September 2023 in response to a local need discerned during the 'Summer at St John's' events. This is a regular term-time activity for those with babies and toddlers, with parents and other carers bringing along children aged 0 to 5. The entry fee remains at £1 per family, to cover the cost of refreshments and materials.

We meet between 10.30-12noon every Monday morning in term time, with older siblings welcomed on inset days.

There are currently 12 people on the volunteer team, whose roles have become more clearly defined - to include an excellent craft team that supports our enthusiastic story tellers, who share a Bible story each week; other volunteers run activities that promote fun and learning, between carer and child. Increasingly popular is the new home corner and the singing time, which includes a wide variety of action songs, nursery rhymes and simple Christian songs that are sung with gusto, and recently we have introduced short prayers.

We endeavour to promote friendships and share Christian love, to offer support and a listening ear.

The average attendance fluctuates, with anything around 15 adults and 20 children.

It is good to see many friendships being formed, and families returning week by week to enthusiastically engage in what we do.

We continue to look for ways to enable this group to engage more deeply with the church at other times, however we are mindful that for many families, this has become their "church."

I am hugely grateful to the dedication to our entire team, who work so hard to prepare beforehand, and make each session happen; also to Fi who continues to support us when able. Thank you to those volunteers who have helped set up tables and equipment, and welcome parents, and to Maralyn, whose ongoing publicity has helped to swell the numbers.

There are times when the helper team numbers can seem low - mainly because family attendance is high. If you would like to get involved, please speak to me or Monica. It is a wonderful ministry to be a part of, with the workload shared by a fantastic team

We praise God for his work in our midst as we endeavour to follow the instruction of Psalm 78, "to teach the children of the next generation of the mighty acts of God, that they in turn, would one day tell their children of the wonderful deeds of God."

Liz Logan

cots2tots

We are a free parent/grandparent/child group meeting in the Church. I run the group and set up and put away the play items and mats. I offer coffee and tea and squash and biscuits to children and adults, checking for allergies each time. The point of the group is to offer support and play to all without cost or a booking being needed. I advertise in the " Copthorne Magazine". Usually we are between 7 and 11 families each week. Dads often come too.

cots2tots has been running for 17 years, initially in the Church hall then the Parish Hub and now in the Church. We are fully supported by the Vicar and all the office staff.

Annabelle Askew

The Parish Hub

The popularity of The Parish Hub continues with casual lettings increasing significantly from those in 2023 with party lettings almost 90% higher. I would like to thank all those villagers who held their parties and celebration events in the Hub, supporting this community asset for the benefit of all.

Following the departure of Sunshine Pre-School at the end of 2023 it took a few months before our regular lettings hours recovered the Sunshine loss, so that over the whole year regular lettings hours were 17% lower than in 2023. However, for the second half of the year the regular lettings hours were the same as they had been in 2023. Over the whole year, therefore, because Sunshine had been enjoying a significant discount in their hire rate, actual lettings income from regular hires was 7% higher than in 2023. Springfit took up much of the time left by Sunshine's departure and we thank them for that.

Thank you to our main Regular hirers (Springfit, Fire Fitness, Apple Tree Yoga and Sadowski Latin Dance) for their continued support. In the last quarter, we welcomed four further regulars (Little Kickers, Move It or Lose It, Susana Crespo Yoga and Clubbercise). We hope that our residents will continue to support all our regular hirers.

With the significant increase in energy costs, we were obliged to increase our hire rates for 2024 but they remain very competitive and the Hub is the only hall in the village equipped with A/V systems and fully air-conditioned. We have not increased our regular hire rates for 2025.

There are still a few weekday slots available for clubs or organisations looking for an ideal location for their weekday sessions, both in the main hall and the first floor South Room. Local voluntary and not-for-profit organisations have also found it ideal for seminars and training days and it continues to provide a magnificent venue for church events from Harvest and Christmas lunches to quiz evenings, all of which attract churchgoers and non-churchgoers alike as well as helping to raise funds for the church.

Although there is limited parking at the Hub, an agreement with the Copthorne Sports Association, who run the Copthorne Jubilee Pavilion, means we can offer parking at that location for larger events, opening the Hub to a wider clientele.

Lettings of the main hall in 2024 generated £35,400 of income with operating expenses for the period of £27,200. The income from the lease of the first floor South Room to Worth Parish Council generated £7,500 in the year. The recharges to Worth Parish Council for shared service charges and utilities generated a further £5,000 of income in the year.

Vandalism was less than in 2023, although the deliberate destruction of a bollard light cost over £500 to replace. Electricity and Gas costs were 52% higher than in 2023.

Improvements included the resurfacing of the car parking spaces in April 2024 with an eco-friendly "grasscrete" surface, which was paid for by grant funds released by Mid Sussex District Council.

Thanks go to our Hub Co-ordinator, Tracey Price, who deals so competently with all our bookings; to Richard Polley, in his role as hardware facilities manager, for dealing most efficiently with a variety of plumbing and electrical glitches and other "mechanical" upsets; to Ian Woodcock in his role as caretaker; to Maralyn Smith, church manager, for her "back office" support and, last but not least, to our wonderful cleaner, Veronica Frederick, who keeps this facility in tip-top condition as a superb asset for the village.

Mike Livesey

Building Team

The buildings team has met frequently in the past year

The team has eight members – seven of which are members of the PCC. Our brief has been to look at options for reordering the church so that it will be better fitted to today's style of services and meetings, whilst also providing the flexibility to accommodate varying configurations.

To provide background information, members of the team have visited seven other churches which have already been reordered – both within the Diocese of Chichester and other dioceses. These

visits have enabled us to amass a great deal of useful information and as a result we have found what we believe is a viable approach to reorder St John's.

The team members cover a broad spectrum of strengths, in the areas of civil; mechanical; electrical and financial skills. This enables us to seek out the right suppliers and to ask the right questions.

Reducing our carbon emissions

One of the key drivers behind reordering the church is to reduce our carbon emissions. We need to use less energy whilst still keeping the building comfortable at all times of use. We have studied the options and have concluded that we need to improve insulation; improve draught control and find a cheaper source of green energy.

One major source of heat loss is the church floor. Beneath the thin carpeting and floorboards there is a massive well-ventilated space – effectively at outdoor ambient temperature. Through relaying the floor with thick insulation and underfloor heating (UFH) we will achieve two things at the same time: reduction in heat loss and a reordered level floor. Removal of most of the pews and replacing them with stackable seating will go a long way towards Phase 1 of our reordering plan.

We propose providing energy from an air source heat pump to transfer hot water to circulate in the UFH system. An air source heat pump effectively reduces the cost of electricity by up to three times.

The church will also have been surveyed by an energy auditor by the time of this APCM.

An architectural competition

The PCC allowed us to organise a competition, with the objective of finding the ideal architect with whom we could work. We selected three likely candidates – all of whom are on the DAC list of approved inspecting architects, and offered them the chance to participate in return for an honorarium of £1,500. All three agreed and were given outline briefs of our problems; the items we thought should be improved, and of our current ways of working. We took care not to be too prescriptive – we were looking for capability and imagination rather than final ideas.

Having analysed all three of the concept documents delivered by the practices we have ultimately agreed to work with Jonathan Cerowski – a local award winning architect, very used to working with historic buildings. Our reordering project has therefore already cost St John's £4,500 as agreed and should prove a sensible investment.

We have yet to take the next steps, because from now on, whatever we do with our architect will be invoiceable.

Appealing against the MSDC planning refusal for solar array - DM/24/1742

We have so far failed to get approval for affixing a temporary solar photovoltaic array to the church roof. This solar array could become a key component in our carbon reduction work. We are appealing to the Secretary of State. A written appeal is completely free of charge, There is a deadline for appealing – 20th March. We will submit our appeal in good time, but it has proved more complex and time consuming than expected. After taking (free of charge) advice from two planning consultants, a professional electrical engineer, and an architect we have had to justify why we believe every objection by the Local Planning Authority is unreasonable or incorrect – line by line.

John Wells

Social Events

Thank you to everyone who supported our social events during 2024. Once again we were blessed with lovely weather for our annual Jazz on the Green which is very popular and a wonderful atmosphere. We served our usual 'cream teas' at the Carnival and were inspired by all the entries for the Flower and Produce Show which were displayed at the Harvest Fair. Our Christmas lunch and popular quizzes were enjoyed by many.

We are also very grateful for all the help, cake making etc for our events which couldn't happen without sharing the load.

We hope you are able to continue joining in with our social fellowship during the coming year.

The Social Team

Mission Partners (home and overseas)

Crawley Open House & Easter Team (Love Your Neighbour)

We are a food and clothing collection point for the Crawley Open house and the Crawley Easter Team, to help local people in crisis as well as homeless people to feel accepted, cared for and valued by providing food and support.

Christian Aid

Last year we joined in again with Christian Aid Week. This is an annual door-to-door fundraising drive by the charity Christian Aid. The drive is held each year in Britain during the second week of May, when volunteers post red collection envelopes to households around Copthorne village, joining with thousands of others doing the same around the country. Christian Aid works with 700 local organisations across 50 developing countries.

Tearfund

In October 2024 we organised another Tearfund Quiz, a fundraising event where the proceeds of the evening are donated to Tearfund. Tearfund is an international Christian relief and development agency based in Teddington, UK. It currently works in around 50 countries, with a primary focus on supporting those in poverty and providing disaster relief for disadvantaged communities.

Royal British Legion

Our annual Remembrance Sunday is our busiest church service of the year. In the past 3 years we have held this service outdoors since we are not able to fit all attendees inside our church building. This year, as is custom with previous years we raised funds for the Royal British Legion, a charity providing financial, social and emotional support to members and veterans of the British Armed Forces, their families and dependants.

Compassion

Compassion is an international children's charity that through sponsorship provides children and young people the opportunity to thrive and reach their God-given potential both now and into the future. As church we sponsor Ivan in Uganda by paying for his school fees. Ivan writes with his thanks for his education, his letters inspire us with his expressions of his faith in Jesus.

CMS

The amazing work of Heather Johnstone, St John's Mission Partner at the Rehema Centre in Mara, Tanzania, continues to alleviate the hardship and struggles of many families, and to empower women. The aim is to meet their everyday needs of food, clothing, shelter and education, alongside training in how to become self-sufficient and to care for their families. Income from the Centre comes from a food outlet, cafe with delicious food, and craft shop, with items skilfully made.

Heather's visit to St. John's, whilst on her fund raising tour, happened earlier than usual last year, which meant she could be present as guest of Honour at our planned Craft Team Autumn Tea, in November. She gave an enlightening and very moving talk on her work, and on her achievements, which were helped by the kindness and generosity of our congregation, and community. She was able to display and sell her range of colourful crafted items and received around £400 raised by the Event itself, plus further direct donations. Our work this year has provided approximately £2,000 and our total to date is over £7,000. Plans are going well for another Afternoon Tea party in March, to support her further.

Heather keeps us updated with regular News Letters, detailing Praise/Prayer points, and with emails, all with information and pictures, highlighting examples of hardship and vulnerability, but with so much news of happy fun times, Church involvement and special Services. This gives us a

window into the world of a life in poverty but also shows how the empowerment and training helps provide a voice for these local women, in Mara.

We always think of Heather in our Church Services, where we pray for her strength and continued success.

The Craft Team are truly thankful for the kindness, good wishes, and huge support received from our Church family, Congregation and Village.

Mary Smith, Sandra Godfrey & Wim Mauritz

Deanery Synod

The Parish of St John's Copthorne is part of the East Grinstead Deanery, which along with other Parishes, covers an area from Cowden (Kent) in the east to Bewbush (Crawley) in the west and from Copthorne in the north to Ashurst Wood in the south, and includes all of the Crawley area. The East Grinstead Deanery in turn forms part of the Diocese of Chichester. At St John's we currently have two elected Lay Deanery Synod Representatives who represent our Parish at Deanery Synod Meetings for a three-year term. Three meetings were held in this one-year period chaired alternately by the Rural Dean Revd Richard Poole and the elected Lay Chairman Mr Robert Pudney. The purpose of these meetings is to provide a two way communication channel from the General Synod through the Diocese and Deanery to the Parishes. This being an important platform to discuss and share ideas as we seek to promote the Gospel in our ever changing communities.

The information presented below is only a summary of the meetings which have taken place over the year. Excellent meeting minutes are available through the Deanery Secretary, **Rob Pudney**.

The first meeting of the Deanery Synod was held in March at St Mary's Church East Grinstead. Following a short PowerPoint presentation, the Revd Richard Poole led us into the main topic of **Building the Deanery**. The meeting membership split into groups and Richard challenged both laity and clergy by asking us to consider the following questions: -

1. What pressures do you feel as a lay person or as clergy in your parish?
2. What kind of things "bother" you in your church/parish?
3. Do you feel you have a voice?

Separate feedback was collected from both the laity and the clergy groups. The laity felt that there were fewer people doing more tasks and that although laity has a voice, sometimes nothing is done with the feedback and that the Diocese can seem remote. It is getting increasingly difficult to engage young people with church. Also, there is a misperception in communities that the church is financially sound. Nevertheless, the clergy are genuinely appreciated by all. The clergy group expressed the feeling of frustration of having to be "all things" and do "all things" with management of time, resources and money being a continual challenge. There is often little time for personal reflection or for future visioning for our churches. Clergy would appreciate training to help them deal with the various pressures they are under.

A finance update was then presented with the positive message that for 2023 pledges of £637k had been made to the Diocese - a shortfall of only £30k, which was a great effort. Nevertheless, 2024 pledges are currently less than those for 2023. Although this is understood, it is somewhat disappointing.

Finally, the meeting reflected on the clergy and laity relationship. There are 34 clergy and 34 laity vacancies on Diocesan Synod and 31 laity vacancies in the East Grinstead Deanery. In conclusion a motion was proposed as follows: -

“That this Deanery Synod considers that the concept of clergy and laity working together for the good of the Church under the synodical Government Measures of 1970 has lost its way.”

We discussed the need for a framework, with suggested next steps within the Motion with a set of recommendations behind this. It can't ostracize the laity in their roles.

The second meeting was held in June at our Church, St John the Evangelist. The opening prayers were followed by a welcome to new Deanery Synod members. The Revd Wim Mauritz introduced the main topic of **Mission Update Work with Refugees** and introduced several refugees who were based in Copthorne Hotels and attended services and ministry from St Johns. Each gave short personal testimonies of their experiences which were very moving and evidence that the Holy Spirit is at work. Wim and the team use AI translators to provide translated resources (into Farsi) for services and alpha courses.

The meeting then broke into groups of different Churches to discuss “How welcoming is your Church to the next generation of believers”. Many interesting examples of outreach were shared in a feedback session including the importance of vision, welcoming and how to reach children and young families. An important point made was that 75% of people convert from birth to 18 years old – it's so important to focus on our youth.

Following on work from the last Deanery Synod meeting, we asked **“How can a Deanery bring about a positive influence upon the diocese?”** Some frustrations were expressed about the Diocesan Synod which sometimes appears to be a one-way information session rather than a two way discussion where Synod members are part of a decision making process.

The third meeting was held in October at St Andrews Church, Furnace Green. Following the welcome and opening prayers an introduction was given by Archdeacon Angela with a thank you to the Parishes for their team effort for us all to be part of and how the parishes are the frontline for Mission. She introduced **Lesley Lyn (Chair of the Diocesan Board of Finance)** and later **John Preston (Diocesan Secretary)**.

Lesley thanked all for their efforts to meet their Parish Share in these difficult times - 80% of Diocese income is from this voluntary contribution from Parishes. Church House has achieved cost savings of £400k this year to try to tackle the financial position but the 2025 budget will still run a deficit. Ministry was the next item discussed as, in the longer term, we do need to look at how we resource ministry in Sussex and inflation will always mean we want to pay Clergy more, and we should pay them more, if at all possible, including Curates and Stipends. Lesley asked that parishes keep forecasted 2025 contributions under review to see if there could be an increase over time, if at all possible.

John Preston presented a useful one page review of Diocese finances for PCC's. Essentially, the plan for 2025 is to hold Parish Ministry costs to about the same levels as last year. However an increase in Parish Share of about 3% would be welcomed and we were all asked to prayerfully consider this by keeping the Parish Share under review through the coming year.

Before closing, the meeting looked forward to 2025, which is a special anniversary for the Deanery!
Andy Harpham and Ian Hornsby

Legal Documentation Relating to the Parish Hub (updated December 2024)

The documentation is filed in a box file in the Parish Office. In summary:

Worth Parish Council have been granted a 25 year lease on the use of the North Rooms under the following arrangement

- The Lease runs for 25 years, from 1st January 2015 to 31st December 2040.
- For the first 15 years the rent payable is £1 pa.
- On 1st January 2030 (15th Anniversary of the Lease) a premium rent of £10,000 is payable and the annual rent (payable quarterly) increases to 50 percent of the then market rent.
- On 1st January 2035 a full market rent becomes payable.
- Worth Parish Council are responsible for 23 percent of all Shared Service Costs as defined in Clause 8.2. (This is based on the respective floor areas.) St John's PCC's obligations in providing services are detailed in Clause 8.3.
- St John's PCC are obliged to provide Quarterly Accounts to Worth Parish Council.

A Section 119 Report was submitted in fulfilment of the Charities Act 2011 in support of the above arrangements.

Worth Parish Council have an annual renewable lease on the South Room. The annual rent (currently £7,500) is reviewable every three years from 2015. The 2021 review resulted in the agreed annual rent as above and was effective from May 2022. The next review took place in September 2024 to be effective from May 2025. In addition, Worth Parish Council pays a Proportionate Share (13%) of the Shared Service Costs as defined in the North Room Lease dated 10th June 2015. (Note that this is in addition to Worth Parish Council's share of the Shared Service Costs provided for under the North Room Lease Agreement.) Worth Parish Council has the option of converting the lease into a longer lease.

St John's PCC has granted a lease to the Trustees of the Copthorne Village Millennium Group (CVMG) for use of the Archive Room on the First Floor and access to storage in the loft for 15 years from January 1st 2015 at £1pa. The Millennium Group undertakes to pay 10 percent of annual income excluding restricted funds towards the upkeep of the Parish Hub and to offset cost of publication of the work in the Copthorne Magazine. The Incumbent of St John's is a member of the CVMG Committee if s/he so wishes.

Service Agreements have been entered into for:

Lift LOLER inspection;
Lift Annual Service;
Boiler annual service;
Security annual checks;
Water annual checks;
Wiring and fire alarm annual checks;
Portable Appliance Testing;
Fire extinguishers;
Air-conditioning.

Other Legal Agreements and Matters

The Incumbent of St John the Evangelist is a Trustee of the Delmar-Morgan Hall and of St John's Sunshine Pre-School.

The Incumbent is also a Foundation Governor of Copthorne CE Junior School.

Trustees Annual Report and Financial Report

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of

St. John the Evangelist, Copthorne **St. John's Church, Church Road, Copthorne, West Sussex** **RH10 3RD**

Registered Charity no: 1155185
For the year ended 31 December 2024

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Website: www.copthornechurch.org

Incumbent: The Reverend Willem Mauritz,

The Vicarage, Church Road, Copthorne, RH10 3RU

Associate Vicar: Reverend Alexandra Wheeler

Assistant Curate: Reverend Fiona Coldicott

Independent Examiner: Chaweevan Williams FCCA, Verdant Accountants Limited

Bankers: The Co-operative Bank plc PO Box 250, Delf House, Southway, Skelmersdale,
WN8 6WT,

Trustees Annual Report for 2024

For
**The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St. John the Evangelist,
Copthorne**

Our aims and purposes as a charity

St John the Evangelist is part of the Diocese of Chichester and the Church of England. As the parish church in Copthorne, we believe that our core purpose is to be a Christian presence in our local community and to pro-actively play our part in God's mission, reaching out in sharing God's love to all.

The PCC of St John's is responsible for the upkeep of the charity's assets such as the main church building, the Parish Hub, offices, vestry and churchyard for the benefit of all parishioners. The PCC is a team made up of members of clergy and lay members of the church. Together they are responsible for the overall wellbeing, practical as well as spiritual, of St John's church, the church members, and the church buildings. The PCC also has a duty to promote the mission of the church within the wider community. Our mission statement "GROWING IN LOVE for God & each other" is rooted in the Christian calling to love God and your neighbour as yourself.

What we planned to do to achieve our charitable objectives

When planning our activities for the year, the PCC considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and the specific guidance on 'charities for the advancement of religion'. The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, fully recognising its duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. Our charitable objectives are to drive our key priorities for the coming years. As a local church in Copthorne, we are passionate about sharing the Gospel with everyone and nurturing one another as followers of Jesus Christ. We are committed to demonstrating generosity to those in need, raising awareness of injustice, and taking action to care for God's creation both locally and globally. In all that we do, we pray for God's kingdom to come and His will to be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Our mission to grow in love for God and each other is expressed through five key priorities:

1. *Sharing the GOOD NEWS*
2. *Teaching and NURTURE*
3. *Acts of GENEROSITY*
4. *Speaking up for JUSTICE*
5. *Care for CREATION*

What we achieved and how we affected beneficiaries' lives

Sharing the GOOD NEWS

Our mission priority of sharing the Good News is not just alone focus; it underpins and connects with all our other priorities. At its core, it's about proclaiming the Gospel reaching out to others by sharing God's message of love. foundation for everything we do and is key to growing strengthening our worshipping community. The most frequent way we share the Good News is through our seasonal church services. We have become much more as a church since we welcomed and supported many



a stand-
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and
It forms the
and
obvious and
weekly and
multicultural
refugees

and asylum seekers who have arrived in our village since 2021. The current number of people who are on the electoral roll is 131 and on average, our weekly services attract between 100-150 people, with seasonal and special services drawing even larger crowds—sometimes doubling that number. For larger services we've expanded to use our churchyard to accommodate everyone.

We are also committed to nurturing future generations through our children's and youth programs, led by dedicated volunteers. On Sundays, these groups meet during the 11am service to explore the Bible, discuss life, and pray together. Our leadership teams carefully plan each session, sharing God's love with the young people. Through our partnerships with local schools, we can also share the Good News with pupils, inviting them to seasonal services and bringing Bible stories into school assemblies. Additionally, we regularly engage with local uniformed groups, introducing them to the Christian faith.

Our church continues to be appreciated by many as a location where life events are celebrated with joy and thanksgiving. Our public worship activities have been of benefit to the wider community. We continue to do our key seasonal services such as Mothering Sunday, Easter, Harvest, Remembrance and Christmas which were very well attended. Our 'All Souls' Service was a particularly poignant, and very much appreciated, occasion where those who have lost loved ones joined for worship and the sharing of memories – this was held in Church but also available online for those unable to be in Church.

Our Remembrance Sunday Service was supported by the local uniformed organisations who participated through readings and prayers to honour those who made the ultimate sacrifice in conflict. In 2024 we saw again many people of the wider village attending.

At this service as well as at our Christingle service and Harvest Festival we were able to partner again with the Copthorne Silver Band. These events were another opportunity to bring the village people to well organised church events and gave opportunities to engage with those who may otherwise not have had any opportunity for religious encounter over the Christmas period.

Our church building is generally open daylight hours on most days either for anyone to use for moments of quiet and a place of peace. Throughout the church hosts a variety of outreach including community groups, toddler Alpha courses, language classes, social and quiet reflection times. Over the past years, we've realized that our current space can no longer accommodate all groups and activities. In the last two we've been considering how to re-order our main church building to better serve our mission.



during services or reflection week, the activities, sessions, events, three worship these years,

Teaching and NURTURE

Our mission to teach and nurture followers of Christ is rooted in Jesus' Great Commission: "*Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit*" (Matthew 28:19, NIV-UK). We believe our calling is to reach out to others with Jesus' message of hope. The process of making disciples naturally happens when newer believers are nurtured by more experienced disciples. Our focus on teaching and nurturing seeks to help new Christians experience God's love and receive the power of the Holy Spirit to become more like Christ.



In 2024, we've again seen a growing number of people come to faith, get baptised, and engage in our prayer gatherings, children's, youth, music, and Bible study groups. Throughout the year, we ran three Alpha courses (one per term), four baptism preparation classes (once a

quarter), and two confirmation classes (in spring and autumn). We also organised a marriage preparation course for couples getting married at our church. We have held another bereavement course and continued to sustain the existing support and prayer groups. All these smaller groups have proven to be a primary space for pastoral care, Christian discipleship, friendship, and the building of meaningful relationships. Our aim remains for them to be large enough to encourage missional activities and small enough to ensure that everyone is cared for.

Our children and youth groups meet on a Sunday. Children meet during the 11am service. The Y6-Y9 group continue to bible, talk about life and pray together. This year we have another new year 6 cohort, and the group is settled and enthusiastically in the activities. The leadership team is and generous, planning each session and sharing God's love young people.



and youth explore the welcomed engages committed with the

We have a Pastoral Ministry Team that actively maintains with, and visits, those who are sick or lonely in our parish. This provides pastoral care before, during, and after regular church. Additionally, we provide care in several local community homes within the parish, where residents and caregivers can attend services or receive home visits when possible.

contact team also services.

Our church website and social media platforms help keep both our church members and the wider community informed about events, courses, and opportunities to get involved. To ensure accessibility, we also produce and distribute the Copthorne Magazine, which is delivered by volunteers to all village residents, keeping them informed about all our activities. Our WhatsApp prayer group has become a valued part of our church life, offering a space for people to connect and pray together, including those who are housebound. We also publish a weekly online newsletter to keep everyone up to date with life at St. John's, and for those who are unable to access digital content, we print and deliver it.

Acts of *GENEROSITY*

Generosity is at the heart of our vision for growing in love. We believe that God calls us to be generous with what He has given us. Generosity is a sign of trust in God's provision, knowing that there will be enough for everyone to share. We are mindful that giving should come willingly and joyfully, not out of pressure or obligation. As St. Paul writes in his second letter to the Corinthians: *"Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."* (2 Corinthians 9:7, NRSVA).

To encourage generous financial giving, we've recently promoted the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) for our regular givers. The PGS is a simple and secure way for people to contribute and helps the church receive income more efficiently, reducing the administrative burden on our treasurer, staff, and volunteers. Alongside PGS, we offer several other ways to give, such as cash, card payments, and QR code donations. We also aim to emphasize the importance of generosity and stewardship through sermons and teachings.



Generosity isn't just about money. We also focus on how we can support the work of the church in practical ways, such as volunteering our time. All church members are encouraged to use their gifts of ministry at services - leading, welcoming, serving, reading lessons and leading prayers. We are very grateful to the musicians and singers and AV technicians who freely give of their expertise at church services. We were again very grateful for our social teams that organised many of our different social events.

In 2024, we continued our international café – offering for some an opportunity for integration, for some the learning of the English language and for some purely the opportunity of a coffee, board games and some company. Each café incorporates Christian learning as well as additional resources (such as bibles) in several mother tongues.

This year we again donated children's bibles to all the year 3's at Copthorne Junior School and Youth Bibles to the Year 6's at their leavers' service.



Social events are a key point of our ministry to the village, enabling church members to invite others to join us. We were delighted to be able to continue these events during 2024. Our Social team work hard planning events throughout the year which are well attended by both church members and the village and wider community. Highlights of 2024sw included:

- Weekly coffee mornings outside at the coffee bars and at the I-Café
- Monthly coffee mornings in church during the working parties
- Various quiz nights - including a Tearfund themed quiz raising both the profile and funds for the work of Tearfund
- Jazz on the Green
- Teas and refreshments at the annual Copthorne Carnival.
- The Flower and Produce Show / Harvest Fair

In addition to these local efforts, we remain committed to generous giving to charities and mission organisations beyond our village. We support both local and global causes, including Crawley Open House, The Children's Society, The Royal British Legion, the Church Mission Society (Heather Johnstone's Rehema Project in Tanzania), Tearfund, and Compassion. We also participate in Christian Aid Week, where we distribute envelopes and organise central collection points throughout the village.

Most of our events are advertised around the village and in our local Copthorne Magazine. The printing and delivery of the bi-monthly Copthorne Magazine is co-ordinated by the church and supported by local advertising. It contains news, events and reports on church and local activities with the 2800 copies being delivered free to every home in Copthorne by a team of village and church volunteers.

Speaking up for JUSTICE

This priority that helps us to engage with global justice issues. The Bible teaches that all people are created in God's image and are equally valuable. Christians believe that God is a God of justice, and as His image-bearers, we are called to pursue justice, particularly for the poor, oppressed, and vulnerable in society. Our mission to speak up for justice is inspired by the last chapter of Proverbs. King Lemuel's mother offers this wisdom: *"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy"* (Proverbs 31:8-9, NIV-UK).

Advocating for justice is not easy, but it is an essential part of our Christian calling. As a church, we continue to support organizations such as Christian Aid, Tearfund and Welcome Churches addressing both global and local injustices. These agencies work to speak out against injustice and build safe communities, protecting people from violence and modern-day slavery.

As Christians, we are called to love and welcome the stranger, regardless of their cultural background. Since 2021, we have had the privilege of caring for refugees and asylum seekers. In

2024, we have been able to speak on behalf of local refugees and asylum seekers in our village community. We regularly collaborate with local authorities and the Home Office, helping refugees understand their legal rights and access to education and housing, while also advocating for them with our local MP.

Care for CREATION

As Christians, we have a scriptural mandate to care for all of God's creation. This responsibility is a core part of our mission and influences how we treat our land, buildings, investments, and other assets.

As a church, we want to play our part in protecting and enhancing the diversity and abundance of life in our local area, especially our churchyard, while also working with others to restore and sustain the health of our wider planet. We believe that when we adopt a proper relationship with creation, others may be drawn into a deeper, life-giving relationship with our Creator God. We worship a God who loves the Earth He created and calls us to care for it. Caring for creation is an essential part of our worship and witness, as we respond to a creation that is groaning (Romans 8:22).



Our church has always been a place where we celebrate significant life events with joy and gratitude. We take great care in maintaining our churchyard, which is much appreciated by the village. Most of the routine maintenance of the church and churchyard is done by volunteers from the church and the wider village community. In 2019, we received our Bronze Eco Church Award. Eco Church, launched by the charity A Rocha in 2016, has grown into a community of churches working together to care for God's Earth. At the heart of the Eco Church initiative is an online survey that helps churches assess how they are caring for the environment in various areas of church life. Our responses to this survey earned us this Bronze award.

The Parish Hub, opened in 2015, is proving of great benefit to church and community alike. It hosts an array of clubs and activities such as art groups, social clubs, various sporting activities and exercise classes for all ages. The presence of the Parish Hub has increased the footfall through the churchyard with many villagers enjoying the attractive space. The Parish Hub has a management team which ensures the smooth running of bookings, financial security and a high standard of upkeep. In addition to our volunteers, the church employs a caretaker and assistant and a Hub co-ordinator - who manages marketing, bookings and some of the day-to-day issues that arise.

In recent years, we have made several steps toward sustainability, including switching to environmentally responsible utility providers. We've also created a "wildflower meadow" and in 2024 we added a small "community orchard" in our churchyard to help nature thrive. Each year, especially during our Harvest Festival, we focus on themes that highlight our commitment to caring for creation. However, we believe there's more we can do in the future. We recognize, along with A Rocha and many other churches, businesses, and organizations, that we are in the midst of a climate emergency. In response, we are committed to a process of continuous improvement to meet the highest possible Eco Church standards.

Parish Ministry Costs

We continued to fulfil our contribution to our Parish Ministry costs for 2024 making a payment of £81,169 to Chichester Diocesan Board of Finance (DBF). We thank all donors to St John's church

who have enabled us to do this again for another year. For 2025 we have committed to meet the increased parish share request of £84,416.

The PCC expresses a heartfelt thank you to all who give up their time in running different ministries, providing hospitality, care and outreach and to those looking after our premises. The hard work of each and every one is much appreciated.

Financial Review

The total receipts on general unrestricted funds were £193,711 (2023 £174,328) and are detailed in the Financial Report. Expenditure also increased to £181,621 which resulted in a surplus on Unrestricted Funds of £12,090.

Including in the income, on an exceptional basis, we received grants totalling £31,005 from Mid Sussex District Council towards the full installation of the Air Conditioning in the Hub and improvements to the Hub Car Park. Without those grants, our unrestricted income would have been over £18,000 below our expenditure.

The value of our Fixed Assets at the end of 2024 can be seen in Note 11.

Each year the Church's invested Endowment Funds are revalued and at 31st December they totalled £101,263; £3,240 higher than the previous year. See Note 10.

Total Funds of the Church at the 31st December 2024 were £800,278 (compared with £779,862 at the end of 2023).

Other highlights of the financial year:

- The Hub contributed over £23,600 including rental income from the Parish Council for the South Room, towards Church Funds with income from lettings increasing significantly over 2023. This is despite Sunshine Pre-school moving to a different venue. The Hub team has contributed magnificently to achieve this result.
- Unfortunately, during 2024, one of our most generous regular donors passed away and, despite many of our regular donors switching to the Parish Giving Scheme, the income received from regular donors and the Giftaid received thereon was down nearly 10%. Therefore, it has become clear in recent years that we need to increase the proportion of our funding that arises from ad hoc donations. We have responded by providing a number of innovative new ways of donating that take advantage of the latest technology. One of our most productive schemes involves using the PGS system for one-off donations by scanning a QR Code in a leaflet or on the screen.
- The Church has taken over the leadership of the group that is preserving and restoring the Lychgate. A dedicated Restricted Fund has been established for this purpose and additional fundraising has started.
- The Church Outreach has been strong in 2024, not only with Asylum Seekers and those recently granted leave to remain but also with the bereaved. The Toddler Group, started in 2023, has gone from strength to strength.

Reserves Policy

It is the PCC's policy:

- To maintain a Net asset balance on the general unrestricted funds (excluding property) which equates to approximately three months' worth of unrestricted payments as contingency against unforeseen situations. The closing balance of £68,912 achieves this Policy.

- To invest legacies restricted as to their objects with the churches, charities and local authorities financial provider, CCLA, until such time that suitable beneficiaries are identified by the PCC.

Structure, Governance and Management.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is registered with the Charity Commission as required by the Charities Act 2011. Its governing document is the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956.

During the year the following served as members of the Parochial Church Council:

Ex Officio members:		
Incumbent:	The Rev'd Willem Mauritz	
Associate Vicar:	The Rev'd Alexandra Wheeler	
Assistant Curate:	The Rev'd Deacon Fiona Coldicott	
Wardens:	Mr David Hornsby	
	Mrs Gillian Hodsdon	
Elected Members:	Mr Jonathan Brueton	Until 2027
	Mr Nigel Cramp	Until 2027
	Mrs Lesley Dawson	Until 2025
	Mrs Anita Findon	Until 2025
	Mrs Margaret Jones	Until 2027
	Mrs Jan Leftley	Until 2025
	Mr Michael Livesey	Until 2026
	The Rev'd Elizabeth Logan	Until 2026
	Mr John Wells	Until 2025
	Mrs Jennifer Wharton	Until 2025
	Mrs Susan Williams	Until 2025
Appointed Members:	Mr Kerry Scott	Treasurer
	Mrs Maralyn Smith	Secretary
	Ms Laura Li	Minute Taker
	Mr Eric Trevett	Safeguarding Officer
Deanery Synod:	Mr Andrew Harpham	Until 2026
	Mr Ian Hornsby	Until 2026

Eric Trevett is the church's Safeguarding Officer, who ensures he is up-to-date with Diocesan Safeguarding Policies and that the PCC is advised of any changes. In addition, Monica Polley maintains the DBS register of those working with children and vulnerable adults or in leadership roles at St. John's. We have recruited more youth workers, leaders and adult carers this year. We are enrolled on the Simple Quality Protects system with the diocese to maintain best practice.

Membership of the PCC is determined under the Church Representation Rules and consists of certain ex-officio members (the incumbent, curate, readers licensed to officiate in the church, the Churchwardens), members of the Deanery, Diocesan or General synods and 11 members of the church who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). Church members are warmly encouraged to stand for election to the PCC and we try to ensure a balance of skills and experience where possible.

This Trustee's Annual Report was approved by the PCC and signed on their behalf by Rev'd W Mauritz.

Signed

Date 18 March 2025

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W Mauritz', written in a cursive style.

Statement of Financial Activities

For the year ended 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds	Notes
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies	91,858	3,166	0	95,024	99,435	
Other trading activities	48,229	0	0	48,229	43,603	
Investments	7,798	5,018	0	12,816	12,694	
Income from charitable activities	14,327	190	0	14,517	10,021	
Other income	31,499	1,000	0	32,499	12,576	
Total income	193,711	9,373	0	203,085	178,328	2
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	3,654	562	0	250	469	
Exp. on charitable activities	137,735	3,725	0	145,425	143,201	
Other expenditure	7,861	0	0	7,861	0	
Trading activities	32,371	0	0	32,371	35,061	
Total expenditure	181,621	4,287	0	185,908	178,731	3
Transfers between funds	48,935	(48,935)	0	0	0	9
Other recognised gains / losses						
Gains/losses on investment assets	0	0	3,240	3,240	8,403	10
Net movement in funds	61,025	(43,849)	3,240	20,416	8,000	
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward	465,241	216,598	98,023	779,862	771,861	
Total funds carried forward	526,266	172,749	101,263	800,278	779,862	

Balance Sheet

As at 31 December 2024

	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023	Note
	£	£	
Tangible assets	629,562	606,418	11
Endowed investments	101,263	98,023	10
Total fixed assets	730,825	704,441	
Debtors	7,039	8,582	13
Cash at bank and in hand	70,195	72,485	
Total current assets	77,234	81,067	
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	(7,781)	(5,647)	14
Net current assets or (liabilities)	69,453	75,420	
Total assets less current liabilities	800,278	779,862	
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year			
Provisions for liabilities			
Total net assets or (liabilities)	800,278	779,862	
The funds of the charity:			
Endowment funds	101,263	98,023	
Restricted income funds	172,749	216,597	
Unrestricted funds	526,266	465,242	
Revaluation reserve			
Total charity funds	800,278	779,862	12,16

The notes on pages 31 to 42 form part of these accounts.

This Financial Report for the year ended 31st December 2024, including the notes following, was approved by the PCC and signed on its behalf by The Revd. Willem Mauritz.



Date 18 March 2025

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

Independent examiner's report to The PCC of St John Evangelist Copthorne (Charity no 1155185) on the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024 which comprise the statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and the related notes.

Responsibilities and basis of report

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act'). The Charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Act and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act, follow the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act, and state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that:

- (1) In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which give me cause to believe that, in any material respect
 - the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
 - the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
 - the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of the accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Report) Regulation 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.
- (2) I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Chaweevan Williams FCCA
Chartered Certified Accountants
Verdant Accountants Limited
20-22 Wenlock Road
London
N1 7GU

Date: 25 April 2025

1 Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS102. The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and the Church Accounting Regulations 2006, in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the current Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities, (SORP (FRS 102)).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention as modified by the inclusion of investments at market value. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their affiliation to another body, nor those which are informal gatherings of church members.

Funds accounting

Funds held by the PCC are:

Unrestricted funds - general funds which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes.

Designated funds - monies set aside by the PCC out of unrestricted funds for specific future purposes or projects.

Restricted funds - a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest; b) donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of the year is carried forward as a balance on that fund.

Endowment funds - funds for which the capital must be maintained; only income arising from the investment of the endowment may be used, either as restricted or unrestricted funds, depending on the purpose set out in the terms of the original endowment.

Income and endowments

All income and endowments, accounted for without deduction for any costs of receivability, are recognised when there is evidence of entitlement, receipt is probable, and the amount can be measured reliably.

Donations and legacies

Collections are recognised when received.

Planned giving receivable is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement, receipt is probable, and the amount accords with the Gift Aid declaration or other record of intention to donate.

Gift aid recovered is recognised when the income to which it is attached is recognised.

Grants and legacies are recognised when the formal offer in writing of the funding, is received by the PCC.

Charitable activities

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Statutory fees for weddings and funerals are recognised when the office occurs. Rental fees are recognised in accordance with the rental agreement, when receipt is probable.

Other trading activities

Trading activities are where income is receivable in return for selling goods or providing services. Income from trading is recognised either: a - when received, or b - in the case of concerts: for the year in which the event occurs, irrespective of date of receipt. Advance bookings are included in creditors until the concert has taken place.

Magazine advertising income is recognised when the magazine is published.

Rents from property are recognised in accordance with the rental agreements, when receipt is probable.

Investment income

Dividends are accounted for when due and payable. Interest entitlements are accounted for as they accrue.

All other income

All other income is recognised in accordance with the above overall policy.

Gains and losses on investments

Realised gains are recognised when the investments are sold. Unrealised gains and losses are accounted for on revaluation at 31 December.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement, payment is probable, and the amount can be measured reliably.

Grants

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded where the award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

Church activities

The diocesan parish contribution is accounted for on an annual basis, reflecting the allocation set by our Deanery.

Fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets

Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from the accounts by s.10(2) of the Charities Act 2011.

Movable church furnishing held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal, are accounted as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the church's inventory which can be inspected but are not included in the financial statements. For other property acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore the cost of such assets is not stated in the financial statements.

All expenditure on consecrated or beneficed buildings and individual items costing under £2000 are written off in the year they were incurred.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated to write down the cost of tangible fixed assets, excluding freehold properties, over their expected useful lives. The rates generally applicable are:

Land and buildings	Nil
Fixtures and fittings	25%
Audio visual equipment	25%
Office equipment	33%
Air Conditioning in the Hub	10%

No depreciation is provided on freehold buildings as the useful economic life of these assets exceeds 50 years and residual values so high that potential depreciation would be immaterial. It is the PCC's policy to maintain these assets in a continual state of sound repair. Resulting from regular impairment reviews, provision will be made if there has been any permanent diminution in value.

Investments

Investments are stated at market value at the balance sheet date.

Current Assets

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31 December in respect of fees, rents or other income are shown as debtors, less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectable.

Short-term deposits include cash held on deposit either with the CBF Church of England Funds, or at the bank.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

2. Analysis of income and endowments

	General	Designated	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	Fund	Fund/s	Funds - Total	Funds	Funds 2024	Funds 2023
	£	£		£	£	£
Planned giving	60,273	2,375	62,648	0	62,648	60,196
Loose cash collections	4,579	0	4,579	0	4,579	5,450
Other special appeals	4,272	0	4,272	3,166	7,437	5,564
Gift Aid recoverable	15,579	0	15,579	0	15,579	24,495
Legacies	2,000	0	2,000	0	2,000	0
Other Funds Generated	2,557	224	2,781	0	2,781	3,730
Donations and legacies	89,259	2,599	91,858	3,166	95,024	99,435
Weddings & funeral fees	7,664	0	7,664	190	7,854	4,906
Fund raising	6,649	14	6,663	0	6,663	5,115
Charitable activities	14,313	14	14,327	190	14,517	10,021
Parish hub hiring fees		37,295	37,295		37,295	32,804
Magazine advertising fees	10,934		10,934		10,934	10,798
Other trading activities	10,934	37,295	48,229	0	48,229	43,603
Interest Income	298		298	5,018	5,316	5,194
Rent for South Room	0	7,500	7,500	0	7,500	7,500
Investments	298	7,500	7,798	5,018	12,816	12,694
Other Income - Grants	475	31,024	31,499	1,000	32,499	12,576
Total income	115,279	78,432	193,711	9,373	203,085	178,328

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

3. Analysis of expenditure

	General	Designated	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds	Total Funds
	Fund	Funds	Total Funds	Fund/s	2024	2023
	£			£	£	£
Fundraising costs	3,654	0	3,654	562	4,216	3,769
Cost of raising funds	3,654	0	3,654	562	4,216	3,769
Grants and Donations	3,317	0	3,317	0	1,786	1,786
Mission & evangelism costs	1,489	0	1,489	0	1,489	1,003
Diocesan parish share	81,169	0	81,169	0	81,169	78,587
Clergy expenses	4,690	0	4,690	0	4,690	2,684
Salaries and honoraria incl NI	19,681	0	19,681	0	19,681	18,235
Upkeep of services	5,840	0	5,840	0	5,840	8,886
Church running costs	10,523	0	10,523	0	10,523	9,871
Church maintenance and repair	724	0	724	0	724	3,932
Upkeep of churchyard	0	0	0	3,260	3,260	4,181
Wedding & funeral fees & costs	1,768	0	1,768	464	2,232	805
Parsonage costs	3,109	0	3,109	0	3,109	3,592
Refund of Annexe Donations			282			
Governance	925	0	925	0	925	275
Cost of charitable activities	133,234	0	133,516	3,725	135,429	133,836
Depreciation	6,065	1,796	7,861	0	7,861	6,065
Parish hub running costs	0	21,127	21,127	0	21,127	21,660
Parish magazine costs	11,245	0	11,245	0	11,245	13,401
Loan interest	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cost of other trading activities	11,245	21,127	32,371	0	32,371	35,061
Church Building Costs	0	4,500	4,500	0	4,500	
Total expended on all funds	154,199	27,423	181,621	4,287	185,908	178,731

4. Missionary and charitable giving

	Total Funds	Total Funds
	2024	2023
	£	£
Church Mission Society - Rehema	1191	648
Donations of Bibles	1775	1286
Compassion UK	384	336
Bereavement Support	435	85
Other charities	1021	1054
Total	4807	3409

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

5. Staff costs

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds	Total Funds
	Funds	Fund/s	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Remuneration				
<i>Wages, salaries, tax, NI and pension costs</i>	33,097	1,978	35,075	35,324

No person received remuneration in excess of £60,000.

6. Payments to PCC members

Salary payments totalling £16,370 were made to three members of staff listed below who are also members of the PCC.

Mrs M Smith, the Church Manager

Mr N Cramp, a Church employee

Mrs L Dawson, a Verger at Weddings and Funerals

Other payments were made to PCC members in the year for reimbursement of expenses incurred on behalf of the PCC:

Clergy support costs: Council tax £2,900, water rates £209, travel and other miscellaneous expenses £4,690.

7. Transactions with related charities

St John's Sunshine Pre School stopped its activities at the Hub at the end of 2023. There were no transactions with related charities in 2024.

8. Governance

	Total £ 2024	Total £ 2023
Independent Examination	630	600

9. Transfers between funds

After consultation with the original donors, the Annexe Fund was closed during 2024 and its balance transferred to the Designated Building and Restricted Churchyard Funds. A few donors requested return of their donations not required for the Annexe development.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

	Increase/ (Decrease) Unrestricted Funds £	Increase/ (Decrease) Restricted Fund/s £
Transfer to close the Annex Fund	49,701	(49,701)
Transfer to subsidise the Churchyard Fund	(766)	766
Total	48,935	(48,935)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

10. Fixed assets - Investments

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowed Funds	Total Funds 2024
	£	£	£	£
Market value 1 January 2024			98,023	98,023
Disposals at carrying value				
Purchases at cost				
Net gains and revaluation			3,240	3,240
Market value 31 December 2024				101,263

11. Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings	Audio visual equipment	Hub Air Conditioning	Total fixed assets
	£	£		£
Original cost or valuation				
At 1 January 2024	588,777	24,261	11,576	624,614
Additions	24,622		6,383	31,005
Disposals				
Revaluation				
At 31 December 2024	613,399	24,261	17,959	655,619
Charge for impairment				
At 1 January 2024	-	18,196		18,196
Charge for Impairment	-	6,065	1,796	7,861
Disposals	-			
Revaluation	-			
				-
At 31 December 2024	-	24,261	1,796	26,057
Net book amounts				
At 31 December 2024	613,399	0	16,163	629,562
<i>At 31 December 2023</i>	588,777	6,065	11,576	606,418

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

The freehold land and buildings comprise the Parish Hub building. The historical cost of this property was £588,777. In the opinion of the PCC its current market value is estimated to be in excess of the historical cost.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

12. Net assets by fund

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowed	Total	Total
	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Fund/s</u>	<u>Fund/s</u>	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Funds</u>
	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets for church use	451,097	178,465		629,562	606,419
Investment fixed assets			101,263	101,263	98,023
Current assets (except cash)	6,498	542		7,040	7,127
Cash, at bank and on deposit	61,074	9,120		70,194	72,484
Current liabilities	(6,117)	(1,664)		(7,781)	(4,191)
Long term liabilities				0	
Total	512,552	186,463	101,263	800,278	779,862

13. Debtors

Debtors	Unrestrict ed	Restrict ed	Total	Total Funds
	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Fund/s</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
	£	£	£	£
Octopus Deposits refundable	611		611	3,264
Giftaid Due	2,870		2,870	1,648
Hub Letting Invoices due			0	194
Hub recharges due	1,302		1,302	1,366
Magazine Advert Fees Due	168		168	489
Interest Income	3	542	545	616
Christmas Period Income	1,543		1,543	1,005
Total	6,497	542	7,039	8,582

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

14. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

Creditors	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Fund/s	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	
Prepayments for Weddings and Funerals	100		100	728
Hub Deposits held	2,400		2,400	2,600
Clergy Expenses Due	443		443	
Copthorne Village		32	32	32
HMRC PAYE due	862	25	887	
Diocesan Fees Due		971	971	461
Architect Fee	1,500		1,500	
Sundry Creditors	1,448	0	1,447	1,826
	6,753	1,028	7,781	5,647

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

15. 2023 Comparatives for the statement of financial activities

	Unrestric ted Fund	Restrict ed Fund/s	Endowed Fund/s	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	94,939	1,235		96,174
Charitable activities	20,208			20,208
Other trading activities	45,549			45,549
Investments	7,426	2,656		10,082
Other receipts	6,715			6,715
Total income	174,837	3,891	0	178,728
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	2,830			2,830
Charitable activities	138,110	2,593		140,703
Other trading activities	21,457			21,457
Other expenditure	1,499			1,499
Parish Magazine	12,606			12,606
Total expenditure	176,502	2,593	0	179,095
Net gains (or losses) on investments			(11,917)	(11,917)
Net income or (net expenditure)	(1,665)	1,298	(11,917)	(12,284)
Transfers between funds	(638)	638	0	0
Net movement in funds	(2,303)	1,936	(11,917)	(12,284)
Total funds brought forward	469,393	213,216	101,536	784,145
Total funds carried forward	467,090	215,152	89,619	771,861

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

16. Statement of funds

Fund income and expenditure and final balances are as follows:

	Balances	Income	Expenditure	Transfers or Revaluations	Balances
	1st January 2024				31st December 2024
	£				
Faith Arnold trust	53,529			2,225	55,754
Payne grave fund	300			0	300
Churchyard trust	44,194			1,015	45,209
Total of all endowed funds	98,023			3,240	101,263
Fabric fund	6,943	3,249		0	10,192
Annex fund	51,770		2,069	(49,701)	0
Building fund	157,885			0	157,885
Lychgate Fund	0	4,673			4,673
Churchyard fund	0	2,959	3,725	766	0
Total of all restricted funds	216,598	10,881	5,794	(48,935)	172,750
General fund	36,596	115,279	154,199	21,367	19,043
Hub Fund	11,576	76,057	22,923	(22,683)	42,027
Designated building fund	412,195	2,375	4,500	50,251	460,321
Legacy fund	4,874	0	0	0	4,874
Total of all unrestricted funds	465,241	193,711	181,621	48,935	526,265
Total funds	779,861	204,592	187,415	3,240	800,278

Explanation of funds

Endowed funds are required by the donors to be invested and the income spent on specific objectives

The Faith Arnold trust is a permanent endowment, invested in CBF Investment Fund shares, which requires the income to be spent on the maintenance and improvement of the church building.

The Payne grave fund is a permanent endowment, invested in CBF Investment Fund shares, which requires the income to be spent on the maintenance of the churchyard.

The Churchyard trust is a permanent endowment, invested in CBF Investment Fund shares, which requires the income to be spent on the churchyard and outdoor areas.

Restricted funds are not invested permanently but are to be spent within reasonable timescales.

The Annex fund is restricted to the *Link* project to extend the church building, increase the space available for worship and provide a more flexible and functional space. This Fund was extinguished in 2024 after the donors agreed that its funds could be used for for any building or fabric development for the Church.

The Building fund is restricted and was used to fund the development of the church office.

The Fabric Fund is restricted to the maintenance and improvement of the church building.

The Churchyard Fund is restricted to the maintenance of the churchyard and outdoor areas.

The Lychgate Fund was established in 2024 following the transfer of responsibility to the Church for maintaining and restoring the Lychgate.

Unrestricted funds are not subject to any donor restrictions and can be spent as the PCC decides.

The unrestricted fund includes amounts designated for the building of the Parish Hub, and also an unrestricted legacy which has been set aside for specific uses to be determined by the PCC.

Accounts

Trustees Annual Report and Financial Report

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of

St. John the Evangelist, Copthorne St. John's Church, Church Road, Copthorne, West Sussex RH10 3RD

Registered Charity no: 1155185
For the year ended 31 December 2023

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Website: www.copthornechurch.org

Incumbent: The Reverend Willem Mauritz,

The Vicarage, Church Road, Copthorne, RH10 3RU

Assistant Curate: Reverend Alexandra Wheeler

*Independent Examiner: : Chaweevan Williams FCCA, Verdant Accountants Ltd, 20-22 Wenlock Road,
London N1 7GU.*

Bankers: The Co-operative Bank plc PO Box 250, Delf House, Southway, Skelmersdale, WN8 6WT,

Trustees Annual Report for 2023

For The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St. John the Evangelist, Copthorne

Our aims and purposes as a charity

St John the Evangelist is part of the Diocese of Chichester and the Church of England. We believe that, as the parish church in Copthorne, our purpose is to play our role in reaching out in God's mission to our local community and beyond. The PCC of St John's is responsible for the upkeep of the charity's assets such as the main church building, the Parish Hub, offices, vestry and churchyard for the benefit of all parishioners. The PCC co-operates with the incumbent to pursue the church's vision of GROWING IN LOVE for God and each other. To enable this vision, we have focused on five key mission priorities that echo the Five Marks of Mission, developed by the Anglican Consultative Council which are:

1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom of God
2. To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
3. To respond to human need by loving service
4. To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation
5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth

Our vision is summarised by our mission statement "GROWING IN LOVE for God & each other".

What we planned to do to achieve our charitable objectives

When planning our activities for the year, the PCC considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on 'charities for the advancement of religion'. The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, fully recognising its duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

Our vision and objectives to drive our activities for the coming years. Our vision is now GROWING IN LOVE for God and each other:

- in our sharing the GOOD NEWS.
- in our teaching and NURTURE
- in our acts of GENEROSITY
- in our speaking up for JUSTICE
- in our care for CREATION

What we achieved and how we affected beneficiaries' lives

in our sharing the GOOD NEWS

Our core priority is to maintain and grow our worshipping community and to reach out to our community and share the gospel message. This is foundational for growing and sustaining all our other priorities. In 2023 we saw a return to attendances at our



Sunday services similar to that which we had before the Covid pandemic. We did however see a significant change in the demographic of our churchgoers. We have become much more multicultural as a church since we welcomed

and supported many refugees and asylum seekers who had arrived in our village since 2021. Our weekly church services combined are now seeing average attendance of around 150 people. The numbers of people attending our special services, which are actively promoted to the community, are usually much higher. We have continued to re-imagine how to 'do' church by having up-to-date worship styles and communication means to invite and engage with all types of people. We have maintained weekly children's / youth work programmes with a team of dedicated and inspiring leaders.

Our public worship activities have been of benefit to the wider community. All of our services are intentionally different in style but welcome a broad spectrum of people to join in worship, practical bible teaching, prayer, and generosity. For larger services, where weather has allowed, we have used our churchyard especially for some of the more popular services such as Remembrance Sunday so as to accommodate as many people as possible. The current number of people who are on the electoral roll is 132.



We continue to do our key seasonal services such as Mothering Sunday, Easter, Harvest, Remembrance and Christmas which were very well attended by the wider community, including those who do not join us on a regular Sunday. Our All Souls service in November was a particularly poignant, but very much appreciated, occasion where those who have lost loved ones joined for worship and the sharing of memories – this was held in Church but also available online for those unable to be in Church.



Our special Christmas Services (including those for our Remembrance Sunday service which was supported by both the Copthorne Silver Band and the local uniformed organisations who participated through readings and prayers to honour those who made the ultimate sacrifice in conflict) in 2023 saw a combined attendance of more than 1100 people in the time frame of just over 2 weeks.

At our Harvest Festival, Remembrance Sunday and Christmas church services we were able to partner again with the Copthorne Silver Band. These events were another opportunity to bring the village people to well organised church events and gives opportunities to engage with those who may otherwise not have had any opportunity for religious encounter over the Christmas period.

We have been very pleased to work with the staff of our local schools in bringing the pupils into the churchyard for the schools' seasonal services. Our 'Open the Book' team have been able to visit the school on a limited number of occasions and for the upcoming year are ready to return more regularly to share Bible Stories at the school assemblies.

Information about church activities is very accessible, with our website detailing contacts and activities so we can share the vision of the church, bringing community and church together. The website has the capability to book into courses and events online, so reaching out to the local community.

Our church building is generally open during daylight hours on most days either for services or for anyone to use for moments of quiet reflection and a place of peace. We

have also facilitated an online prayer board and a WhatsApp prayer group which is much appreciated by our church and village community.

Our church continues to be appreciated by many as a location where life events are celebrated with joy and thanksgiving.

in our TEACHING AND NURTURING

We continue to see people taking part in our Prayer gatherings, Alpha courses and children's & youth groups. We had 3 different Alpha Courses (2 at church and 1 online) Many other groups grew out of these Alpha's We have seen several people coming to faith in Jesus Christ and this has been a great joy to our church community. We held 4 Baptism preparation classes, had 17 candidates baptized and a further 29 candidates were confirmed in a service led by the Bishop of Lewes. In the Spring we organized a Marriage preparation course for 2 couples who got married at St John's in the summer months following.

All our children and youth groups meet on a Sunday. Children and the younger youth meet during the 11am service. The Y6-Y8 group continue to explore the bible, talk about life and pray together. This year we have welcomed our new year 6 cohort and the group is settled and engages enthusiastically in the activities. The leadership team are committed and generous, planning each session and sharing God's love with the young people. On Sunday evening at 7pm the Y9+ group meet and come together to study the bible, play games and occasionally go out together or do something creative such as drawing or writing a song.



At the start of the summer holidays, we again held our annual holiday club event called, 'Summer at St John's.' Our mornings at St John's were a fun way to start the summer holidays. Craft activities, games, worship and stories were led brilliantly by a team of volunteers who welcomed the children and invited them to enjoy the presence of God. We also have seen an increase in our Christian input in teaching and corporate worship at our local school(s), through weekly Christian themed assemblies.

All church members are encouraged to use their gifts of ministry at services - leading, welcoming, serving, reading lessons and leading prayers: we are very grateful to the musicians and singers who freely give of their expertise at both the 9.30am and the 11. 00 am services. We are also grateful to all who support the preparation and streaming of services online and to those who maintain the Covid safe environment in church through additional cleaning between services.

During 2023 we were able to continue our monthly working parties and associated coffee mornings. This both assists us in the maintenance of the church and churchyard but also provides opportunity for an 'alternative' fellowship where informal discussions can take place. For some attendees this is the only form of 'church' they are comfortable with, and it gives us an opportunity to engage with those individuals and meet them where they are in their faith.

in our acts of GENEROSITY

Our Pastoral Ministry Team keeps in contact and visits those who are sick or lonely in our parish, and continues to provide pastoral engagements before, during and after our regular church services and at our online social events during the year. We have continued to keep in touch with the more vulnerable in our community through our 'Connect' groups maintaining email / WhatsApp / telephone contact with all church

members on a regular basis. We have published a weekly online newsletter to keep all members up to date with life at St John's and have additionally printed and delivered this newsletter to those unable to access materials online.

We have several 'care in the community' homes within the parish with residents and their carers attending the Sunday and weekday services, albeit in some instances online in the current climate.



In 2023 we continued our international café – offering for some an opportunity for integration, for some the learning of the English language and for some purely the opportunity of a coffee, board games and some company. Each café incorporates Christian learning as well as additional resources (such as bibles) in several mother tongues.

This year we again donated children's bibles to all the year 3's at Copthorne Junior School and Youth Bibles to the Year 6's at their leaver's service.

Social events are a key point of our ministry to the village, enabling church members to invite others to join us. We were delighted to be able to continue these events during 2023. The Social team work hard planning events throughout the year which are well attended by both church members and the village and wider community. Highlights of 2023 included:

- Weekly coffee mornings outside at the coffee bars and at the I-Café
- Monthly coffee mornings in church during the working parties
- Various quiz nights - including a Tearfund themed quiz raising both the profile and funds for the work of Tearfund.
- The return of Jazz on the Green
- Teas and refreshments at the annual Copthorne Carnival.
- The Flower and Produce Show / Harvest Fair which we used to launch our wildflower seeding of an area of the churchyard and our mission to plant trees in and around the village – supported by our local Haskins Garden Centre.

In addition to all this we maintained our commitment to other charitable giving, by supporting local and overseas mission and development agencies and continued to sponsor, produce and distribute our local Copthorne Magazine to all village residents and by publishing it online.

Planned monthly giving continues to the Church Mission Society, for Heather Johnstone at the Rehema project in Tanzania, and Compassion, paying school fees for Ivan in Uganda. Ivan writes with his thanks for his education, his letters inspire us with his expressions of his faith in Jesus. The Rehema project supports abused women and children by giving them work in a craft workshop and café.

Christian Aid Week was organised again in the delivery of envelopes and co-ordinated central collection points in the village. We continued to support The Children's Society, via home boxes and the collection at the Christingle service, and The Royal British Legion at our Remembrance Service.

The church is the village collection point for groceries and toiletries for Crawley Open House, sending them supplies to help them care for the local homeless. Towards the end of the year St John's has also become a partner in the 'Love Your Neighbour' campaign collecting for and promoting this organisation which is providing relief to those facing economic hardship in our local community.

Most of our events are advertised around the village and in our local Copthorne Magazine. The printing and delivery of the bi-monthly Copthorne Magazine is co-ordinated by the church and supported by local advertising. It contains news, events and reports on church and local activities with the 2200 + copies being delivered free to every home in Copthorne by a team of village and church volunteers.

in our speaking up for JUSTICE

We also set a priority that helps us to engage with global justice issues and to connect and support agencies that engage with refugees, migrants, asylum seekers and those who rescue people from modern day slavery. As noted above we have been involved in supporting refugees and asylum seekers who currently reside within our community. Furthermore, we have been actively engaged with our local / county councils and the Home Office and have been advocating the rights of these individuals – for example in provision of education for the children amongst them. As church community we wrote to our own MP highlighting some of the injustices that asylum seekers face, especially the long waiting times they experience before being interviewed. We also continue to be engaging and supporting with charities which are involved with the advocacy of the rights for the more vulnerable in the world such as Christian Aid and Tearfund.

in our care for CREATION

In 2023 we ran 3 Forest Church sessions. This has been a wonderful opportunity to gather in the churchyard to connect with creation and our creator God.

We continue to be committed to reduce our carbon footprint individually as well as a church Community and would like in the years to become an accredited (Silver or Gold) Eco Church. In 2019 we attained the Bronze Award for Eco Church and recycle materials where possible. In 2023 we started to look into how we can improve our energy consumption. As in the previous year we continued to set aside and seed an area of our churchyard to be a ‘wildflower meadow’ and encourage nature to thrive. Furthermore, we continued the focus in our Harvest celebration and Harvest Fair was on ‘caring for creation’ and launching our vision for planting trees in and around the village in the coming years.

The Parish Hub, opened in 2015, is proving of great benefit to church and community alike, accommodating St. John’s Sunshine Pre-School, Friday Friends Teas, various sporting activities and exercise classes for all ages. The presence of the Parish Hub has increased the footfall through the churchyard with many villagers enjoying the attractive space. The Parish Hub has a management team which ensures the smooth running of bookings, financial security and a high standard of upkeep. In addition to our volunteers, the church employs a caretaker and assistant and a Hub co-ordinator – who manages marketing, bookings and some of the day to day issues that arise.

The churchyard is well cared for, which is much appreciated by villagers. Most of the routine maintenance of the church and churchyard is done by volunteers from the church and community at the “First Saturday” work parties and coffee mornings. Team building and refreshments are an important part of these occasions. The churchyard remains in good order for the benefit of the village. Volunteer cleaners and flower arrangers keep the church tidy and attractive week by week.



PARISH MINISTRY COSTS

We continued to fulfil our contribution to our Parish Ministry Costs for 2023 making a payment of £78,587 to Chichester Diocesan Board of Finance (DBF). We thank all

donors to St John's church who have enabled us to do this again for another year. For 2024 we have committed to meet the increased parish share request of £81,169.

The PCC expresses a heartfelt thank you to all who give up their time in running different ministries, providing hospitality, care and outreach and to those looking after our premises. The hard work of each and every one is much appreciated.

Financial Review

The total receipts on general unrestricted funds were £174,800 (2022 £174,837) and are detailed in the Financial Report. Expenditure also increased to £174,550 which resulted in a small surplus on Unrestricted Funds of £250.

It should be noted that we received £11,576 from Mid Sussex District Council by way of a Section 106 Grant to cover the costs of installing Air Conditioning in the Hub. This increased income and the value of our Fixed Assets.

Each year the Churches invested Endowment Funds are revalued and at 31st December they were £8,404 higher than the previous year; as a result Total Funds of the Church at the 31st December 2023 were £779,862 (2022 £771,861).

Other highlights of the financial year:

- The Hub contributed over £18,500 including rental income from the Parish Council, towards Church Funds with income from lettings increasing significantly over 2022. Sunshine Preschool has now moved to a new location so will no longer be our principal “tenant”. However, other organisations have filled the gap and we are optimistic that letting income for 2024 will again be strong.
- During 2023, many of our regular donors have switched to the Parish Giving Scheme. PGS now collects nearly half of all our regular donations and has streamlined the collection of Gift Aid for those donations.
- The Church paid our full Parish Share of £78,587 to the Diocese towards ministry costs for the stipend, housing and pension costs of the clergy and for diocesan central costs, clergy training and a contribution to the national church fund.
- During 2023 St Johns has continued its work amongst Asylum Seekers and those recently granted leave to remain. Through the generous donations of our worshippers it is possible to sustain significant expenditure on both faith and non-faith charitable donations.

Reserves Policy

It is the PCC’s policy:

- To maintain a Net asset balance on the general unrestricted funds (excluding property) which equates to approximately three months’ worth of unrestricted payments as contingency against unforeseen situations. The closing balance of £75,418 achieves this Policy.
- To invest legacies restricted as to their objects with the churches, charities and local authorities financial provider, CCLA, until such time that suitable beneficiaries are identified by the PCC.

Structure, Governance and Management.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is registered with the Charity Commission as required by the Charities Act 2011. Its governing document is the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956.

During the year the following served as members of the Parochial Church Council:

Ex Officio members

Incumbent:	The Rev'd Willem Mauritz
Associate Vicar:	The Rev'd Alexandra Wheeler
Curate:	The Rev'd Fiona Coldicott
Wardens:	Mr David Hornsby Mrs Gillian Hodsdon

Elected Members:	Mr Jonathan Brueton	Until 2024
	Mr Nigel Cramp	Until 2024
	Mrs Lesley Dawson	Until 2025
	Mrs Anita Findon	Until 2025
	Mrs Jan Leftley	Until 2025
	Mr Michael Livesey	Until 2026
	The Rev'd Elizabeth Logan	Until 2026
	Mrs Maralyn Smith	Until 2026
	Mr Andrew Taylor	Until 2026`
	Mr John Wells	Until 2025
	Mrs Jennifer Wharton	Until 2025
	Mrs Susan Williams	Until 2025

Appointed Members:	Mr Kerry Scott	Treasurer
	Mrs Cathy Sexton	Secretary
	Mr Eric Trevett	Safeguarding Officer

Deanery Synod:	Mr Andrew Harpham	Until 2026
	Mr Ian Hornsby	Until 2026

Eric Trevett is the church's Safeguarding Officer, who ensures he is up-to-date with Diocesan Safeguarding Policies and that the PCC is advised of any changes. In addition, Monica Polley maintains the DBS register of those working with children and vulnerable adults or in leadership roles at St. John's. We have recruited more youth workers, leaders and adult carers this year. We are enrolled on the Simple Quality Protects system with the diocese to maintain best practice.

Membership of the PCC is determined under the Church Representation Rules and consists of certain ex-officio members (the incumbent, curate, readers licensed to officiate in the church, the Churchwardens), members of the Deanery, Diocesan or General synods and 11 members of the church who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). Church members are warmly encouraged to stand for election to the PCC and we try to ensure a balance of skills and experience where possible.

This Trustee's Annual Report was approved by the PCC and signed on their behalf by Rev'd W Mauritz.

Signed



Date 26/05/24

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

Independent examiner's report to The PCC of St John Evangelist Copthorne (Charity no 1155185) on the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023 which comprise the statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and the related notes.

Responsibilities and basis of report

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act'). The Charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Act and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act, follow the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act, and state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that:

- (1) In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which give me cause to believe that, in any material respect:
 - the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
 - the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
 - the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of the accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Report) Regulation 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.
- (2) I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Chaweevan Williams FCCA
Chartered Certified Accountants
Verdant Accountants Limited
20-22 Wenlock Road
London
N1 7GU

Date: 31 May 2024

Statement of Financial Activities
For the year ended 31 December 2023

	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund/s	Endowed Fund/s	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022	Notes
	£	£	£	£	£	
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies	110,900	1,100	0	112,010	96,175	
Other trading activities	43,603	0	0	43,603	45,549	
Investments	10,456	2,238	0	12,694	10,082	
Income from charitable activities	9,841	180	0	10,021	20,208	
Other income	0	0	0	0	6,714	
Total income	174,800	3,528	0	178,328	178,728	
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	3,769	0	0	3,769	2,830	
Charitable activities	135,721	4,181	0	139,902	140,702	
Trading activities	35,061	0	0	35,061	34,064	
Other					1,499	
Total expenditure	174,551	4,181	0	178,731	179,095	
Net gains (or losses) on investments	0	0	8,404	8,404	(11,917)	
Net income or (net expenditure)	249	(653)	8,404	8,001	(12,284)	
Transfers between funds	(2,098)	2,098	0	0	0	
Other recognised gains/(losses):						
Gains/(losses) on revaluation of fixed assets						
Other gains/(losses)						
<i>Reconciliation of funds:</i>						
Net movement in funds	(1,849)	1,445	8,404	8,001	(12,284)	
Total funds brought forward	467,090	215,152	89,619	771,861	784,145	
Total funds carried forward	465,241	216,597	98,023	779,862	771,861	

Balance Sheet

As at 31 December 2023

	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022	Notes
	£	£	
Tangible assets	606,418	600,908	11
Endowed investments	98,023	89,619	10
Total fixed assets	704,441	690,527	
Debtors	8,582	9,520	13
Cash at bank and in hand	72,485	77,969	
Total current assets	81,067	87,489	
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	(5,647)	(6,155)	14
Net current assets or (liabilities)	75,420	81,334	
Total assets less current liabilities	779,862	771,861	
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year			
Provisions for liabilities			
Total net assets or (liabilities)	779,862	771,861	
The funds of the charity:			
Endowment funds	98,023	89,619	
Restricted income funds	216,597	215,153	
Unrestricted funds	465,242	467,089	
Revaluation reserve			
Total charity funds	779,862	771,861	12,16

The notes on pages 27 to 36 form part of these accounts.

This Financial Report for the year ended 31st December 2023, including the notes following, was approved by the PCC and signed on its behalf by The Revd. Willem Mauritz.



Date 26/05/24.....

The Parochial Church Council of St John the Evangelist, Copthorne

Notes to the Accounts

1 Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS102. The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and the Church Accounting Regulations 2006, in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the current Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities, (SORP (FRS 102)).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention as modified by the inclusion of investments at market value. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their affiliation to another body, nor those which are informal gatherings of church members.

Funds accounting

Funds held by the PCC are:

Unrestricted funds - general funds which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes.

Designated funds - monies set aside by the PCC out of unrestricted funds for specific future purposes or projects.

Restricted funds - a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest; b) donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of the year is carried forward as a balance on that fund.

Endowment funds - funds for which the capital must be maintained; only income arising from the investment of the endowment may be used, either as restricted or unrestricted funds, depending on the purpose set out in the terms of the original endowment.

Income and endowments

All income and endowments, accounted for without deduction for any costs of receivability, are recognised when there is evidence of entitlement, receipt is probable, and the amount can be measured reliably.

Donations and legacies

Collections are recognised when received.

Planned giving receivable is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement, receipt is probable, and the amount accords with the Gift Aid declaration or other record of intention to donate.

Gift aid recovered is recognised when the income to which it is attached is recognised.

Grants and legacies are recognised when the formal offer in writing of the funding, is received by the PCC.

Charitable activities

Statutory fees for weddings and funerals are recognised when the office occurs. Rental fees are recognised in accordance with the rental agreement, when receipt is probable.

Other trading activities

Trading activities are where income is receivable in return for selling goods or providing services. Income from trading is recognised either: a - when received, or b - in the case of concerts: for the year in which the event occurs, irrespective of date of receipt. Advance bookings are included in creditors until the concert has taken place.

Magazine advertising income is recognised when the magazine is published.

Rents from property are recognised in accordance with the rental agreements, when receipt is probable.

Investment income

Dividends are accounted for when due and payable. Interest entitlements are accounted for as they accrue.

All other income

All other income is recognised in accordance with the above overall policy.

Gains and losses on investments

The Parochial Church Council of St John the Evangelist, Copthorne

Notes to the Accounts

Realised gains are recognised when the investments are sold. Unrealised gains and losses are accounted for on revaluation at 31 December.

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement, payment is probable, and the amount can be measured reliably.

Grants

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded where the award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

Church activities

The diocesan parish contribution is accounted for on an annual basis, reflecting the allocation set by our Deanery.

Fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets

Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from the accounts by s.10(2) of the Charities Act 2011.

Movable church furnishing held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal, are accounted as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the church's inventory which can be inspected but are not included in the financial statements. For other property acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore the cost of such assets is not stated in the financial statements.

All expenditure on consecrated or beneficed buildings and individual items costing under £2000 are written off in the year they were incurred.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated to write down the cost of tangible fixed assets, excluding freehold properties, over their expected useful lives. The rates generally applicable are:

Land and buildings	Nil
Ride on lawnmower	33%
Fixtures and fittings	25%
Audio visual equipment	25%
Office equipment	33%

No depreciation is provided on freehold buildings as the useful economic life of these assets exceeds 50 years and residual values so high that potential depreciation would be immaterial. It is the PCC's policy to maintain these assets in a continual state of sound repair. Resulting from regular impairment reviews, provision will be made if there has been any permanent diminution in value.

Investments

Investments are stated at market value at the balance sheet date.

Current Assets

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31 December in respect of fees, rents or other income are shown as debtors, less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectable.

Short-term deposits include cash held on deposit either with the CBF Church of England Funds, or at the bank.

The Parochial Church Council of St John the Evangelist, Copthorne

Notes to the Accounts

2. Analysis of income and endowments

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total Funds
	Funds	Funds	Funds 2023	2022
				£
Planned giving (excl. tax refunds)	60,086	110	60,196	67,326
Loose cash collections	5,450	0	5,450	6,474
Other special appeals	5,564	0	5,564	2,573
Gift Aid recoverable	24,495	0	24,495	17,734
Legacies	0		0	1,000
Grants	11,576	1,000	12,576	750
Other Funds Generated	3,730	0	3,730	317
Donations and legacies	110,901	1,110	112,011	96,174
			0	
Fees for weddings & funerals	4,726	180	4,906	9,734
Fund raising	5,115	0	5,115	10,474
Charitable activities	9,841	180	10,021	20,208
	0		0	
	0		0	
Parish hub hiring fees	32,804	0	32,804	33,632
Magazine advertising fees	10,798	0	10,798	11,917
Other trading activities	43,603	0	43,603	45,549
	0		0	
Bank & CBF deposit interest	2,956	2,238	5,194	2,962
Rent from WPC for South Room	7,500	0	7,500	7,120
Investments	10,456	2,238	12,694	10,082
Insurance Claims			0	6,714
Total income and endowments on all funds	174,800	3,528	178,328	178,728

The Parochial Church Council of St John the Evangelist, Copthorne

Notes to the Accounts

3. Analysis of expenditure

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Fund/s	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
	£	£	£	£
Other fundraising costs	3,769	0	3,769	2,830
Cost of raising funds	3,769	0	3,769	2,830
Charitable grants and donations	1,786	0	1,786	4,061
Mission & evangelism costs	1,003	0	1,003	1,522
Diocesan parish share	78,587	0	78,587	76,967
Clergy expenses	2,684	0	2,684	4,189
Salaries and honoraria incl NI	18,235	0	18,235	14,125
Upkeep of services	8,886	0	8,886	10,690
Church running costs	9,871	0	9,871	11,740
Church maintenance and repair	3,932	0	3,932	5,073
Wedding & funeral fees & costs	805	0	805	1,499
Upkeep of churchyard	0	4,181	4,181	2,593
Parsonage costs	3,592	0	3,592	3,402
Governance	275	0	275	275
Cost of charitable activities	129,655	4,181	133,836	140,703
Parish hub running costs	21,660	0	21,660	21,457
Parish magazine costs	13,401	0	13,401	12,606
Cost of other trading activities	35,061	0	35,061	35,562
Depreciation	6,065	0	6,065	6,065
Total	174,550	4,181	178,731	179,095

The Parochial Church Council of St John the Evangelist, Copthorne

Notes to the Accounts

4. Missionary and charitable giving

	Total Funds	Total Funds
	2023	2022
	£	£
Church Mission Society - Rehema	648	480
Donations of Bibles	1286	1290
Water Aid	35	26
Asylum Seekers Support	83	2591
Compassion UK	336	336
Tearfund	686	680
Bereavement Support	85	0
Other charities	250	180
	3409	5583

5. Staff costs

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds	Total Funds
	Funds	Fund/s	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Remuneration				
<i>Wages, salaries, tax, NI and pension costs</i>	35,324	1,981	37,305	28,309

No person received remuneration in excess of £60,000.

6. Payments to PCC members

Mrs L Dawson received £238 in her role as vergers. Mr N Cramp received £4,760 as an employee of the church.

Other payments were made to PCC members in the year for reimbursement of expenses incurred on behalf of the PCC:

- Clergy support: Council tax £3,060, water £532, travel and other miscellaneous expenses £2,684
- Five PCC members received reimbursement for administrative, fundraising and maintenance expenses amounting in total to £162

7. Transactions with related charities

St John's Sunshine Pre School is a separate charity, a related party to this PCC. During 2023 £8,118(2022 £9,080) was paid to St John's Church from St John's Sunshine Pre School for use of the Parish Hub and for parish magazine adverts.

The Parochial Church Council of St John the Evangelist, Copthorne

Notes to the Accounts

8. Governance

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Fund/s	Endowed Fund/s	Total Funds 2023	<i>Total Funds 2022</i>
Independent Examination	£ 275	£	£	£ 275	£ 275
Total	275	0	0		275

9. Transfers between funds

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Fund/s	Endowed Fund/s	Total Funds 2023	<i>Total Funds 2022</i>
Transfer for churchyard expenses	£ (2,098)	£ 2,098	£	£ 0	£ 0
Total	(2,098)	2,098		0	0

10. Fixed assets - Investments

	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund/s	Endowed Fund/s	Total Funds 2023
Market value 1 January 2023	£	£	£ 89,619	£ 89,619
Disposals at carrying value				
Purchases at cost				
Net gains and revaluation			8,404	8,404
Market value 31 December 2023			98,023	98,023

The Parochial Church Council of St John the Evangelist, Copthorne

Notes to the Accounts

11. Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings	Audio visual equipment	Hub Air Conditioning	Total fixed assets
	£	£		£
Cost or valuation				
At 1 January 2023	588,777	24,261	0	613,038
Additions : Hub Air Conditioning			11,576	
Disposals				
Revaluation				
At 31 December 2023	588,777	24,261	11,576	624,614
Charge for impairment				
At 1 January 2023	-	12,131		
Charge for Impairment	-	6,065		
Disposals	-			
Revaluation	-			-
At 31 December 2023	-	18,196	0	18,196
Net book amounts				
At 31 December 2023	588,777	6,065	11,576	606,418
<i>At 31 December 2022</i>	588,777	12,131	0	600,908

The freehold land and buildings comprise the Parish Hub building. The historical cost of this property was £588,777. In the opinion of the PCC its current market value is estimated to be in excess of the historical cost.

The Parochial Church Council of St John the Evangelist, Copthorne

Notes to the Accounts

12. Net assets by fund

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowed	Total Funds	Total Funds
	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Fund/s</u>	<u>Fund/s</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets for church use	427,953	178,465		606,418	600,907
Investment fixed assets			98,023	98,023	89,619
Current assets (except cash)	7,971	612		8,583	9,521
Cash, at bank and on deposit	21,356	51,129		72,484	77,969
Current liabilities	-5,176	-471		-5,647	-6,155
Long term liabilities					
	452,104	229,735	98,023	779,861	771,862

13. Debtors

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowed	Total Funds	Total Funds
	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Fund/s</u>	<u>Fund/s</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
	£	£	£	£	£
Octopus Deposits refundable	3,264			3,264	
Income tax recoverable	1,648			1,648	4,402
Hub Rents due	194			194	1,390
Hub recharges due	1,366			1,366	
Magazine Advert Fees Due	489			489	1,889
Interest Income	616			616	
Christmas Period Income	1,005			1,005	1,839
	8,582	0	0	8,582	9,520

14. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowed	Total Funds	Total Funds
	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Fund/s</u>	<u>Fund/s</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
	£	£	£	£	£
Prepayments for Weddings and Funerals	728			728	2,471
Hub Deposits held	2,600			2,600	3,684
CVSG		32		32	
Diocesan Fees Due		461		461	
Sundry Creditors	1,816	10		1,826	
	5,144	493	0	5,647	6,155

The Parochial Church Council of St John the Evangelist, Copthorne
Notes to the Accounts

15. 2022 Comparatives for the statement of financial activities

	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund/s	Endowed Fund/s	Total Funds 2022
	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	94,939	1,235		96,174
Charitable activities	20,208			20,208
Other trading activities	45,549			45,549
Investments	7,426	2,656		10,082
Other receipts	6,715			6,715
Total income	174,837	3,891	0	178,728
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	2,830			2,830
Charitable activities	138,110	2,593		140,703
Other trading activities	21,457			21,457
Other expenditure	1,499			1,499
Parish Magazine	12,606			12,606
Total expenditure	176,502	2,593	0	179,095
Net gains (or losses) on investments			(11,917)	(11,917)
Net income or (net expenditure)	(1,665)	1,298	(11,917)	(12,284)
Transfers between funds	(638)	638	0	0
Other recognised gains/(losses):				
Gains/(losses) on revaluation of fixed assets				
Other gains/(losses)				
<i>Reconciliation of funds:</i>				
Net movement in funds	(2,303)	1,936	(11,917)	(12,284)
Total funds brought forward	469,393	213,216	101,536	784,145
Total funds carried forward	467,090	215,152	89,619	771,861

The Parochial Church Council of St John the Evangelist, Copthorne

Notes to the Accounts

16. Statement of funds

Fund income and expenditure and final balances are as follows:

	Balances 1 st January 2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfers/ Revaluation	Balances 31 st December 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Faith Arnold trust	48,926			4,603	53,529
Payne grave fund	300				300
Churchyard trust	40,393			3,801	44,194
Total of all endowed funds	89,619			8,404	98,023
Fabric fund	5,607	1,335			6,943
Annex fund	51,680	90			51,745
Building fund	157,865	20			157,910
Churchyard fund	0	2,083	(4,181)	2,098	0
Total of all restricted funds	215,152	3,528	(4,181)	2,098	216,598
General fund	53,606	122,097	(152,491)	13,384	36,596
Hub Fund	0	50,820	(22,060)	(17,184)	11,576
Designated building fund	410,312	1,883			412,195
Legacy fund	4,874				4,874
Total of all unrestricted funds	467,090	180,873	(186,102)	(2,098)	465,241
Total funds	771,861	178,328	178,732	8,404	779,861

Note: a Transfer of £1,703 was made from the General Fund to the Hub Fund on 1st January 2023.

Explanation of funds

Endowed funds are required by the donors to be invested and the income spent on specific objectives

The Faith Arnold trust is a permanent endowment, invested in CBF Investment Fund shares, which requires the income to be spent on the maintenance and improvement of the church building.

The Payne grave fund is a permanent endowment, invested in CBF Investment Fund shares, which requires the income to be spent on the maintenance of the churchyard.

The Churchyard trust is a permanent endowment, invested in CBF Investment Fund shares, which requires the income to be spent on the churchyard and outdoor areas.

Restricted funds are not invested permanently but are to be spent within reasonable timescales.

The Fabric Fund is restricted to the maintenance and improvement of the church building.

The Annex fund is restricted to the *Link* project to extend the church building, increase the space available for worship and provide a more flexible and functional space. The Building fund is restricted and was used to fund the development of the church office.

The Churchyard Fund is restricted to the maintenance of the churchyard and outdoor areas.

Unrestricted funds are not subject to any donor restrictions and can be spent as the PCC decides.

The unrestricted fund includes amounts designated for the building of the Parish Hub, and also an unrestricted legacy which has been set aside for specific uses to be determined by the PCC.

Accounts



GROWING IN LOVE for God & each other



(Practising English at the I-Café')

Trustees Annual Report and Financial Report

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of

St. John the Evangelist, Copthorne

**St. John's Church, Church Road, Copthorne, West Sussex
RH10 3RD**

Registered Charity no: 1155185

For the year ended 31 December 2022

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Website: www.copthornechurch.org

Incumbent: The Reverend Willem Mauritz,

The Vicarage, Church Road, Copthorne, RH10 3RD

Assistant Curate: Reverend Alexandra Wheeler

Independent Examiner:

Fionna Thomson, 5 Abergavenny Gardens, Copthorne. RH10 3RU

*Bankers: The Co-operative Bank plc PO Box 250, Delf House, Southway, Skelmersdale,
WN8 6WT,*

Trustees Annual Report for 2022

For The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St. John the Evangelist, Copthorne

Our aims and purposes as a charity

St John the Evangelist is part of the Diocese of Chichester and the Church of England. We believe that, as the parish church in Copthorne, our purpose is to play our role in reaching out in God's mission to our local community and beyond. The PCC of St John's is responsible for the upkeep of the charity's assets such as the main church building, the Parish Hub, offices, vestry and churchyard for the benefit of all parishioners. The PCC co-operates with the incumbent to pursue the church's vision of GROWING IN LOVE for God and each other. To enable this vision, we have focused on five key mission priorities that echo the Five Marks of Mission, developed by the Anglican Consultative Council which are:

- (1) To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom of God
- (2) To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
- (3) To respond to human need by loving service
- (4) To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation
- (5) To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth

Our vision is summarised by our mission statement "GROWING IN LOVE for God & each other".

What we planned to do to achieve our charitable objectives

When planning our activities for the year, the PCC considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on 'charities for the advancement of religion'. The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, fully recognising its duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

In 2021 we refreshed and simplified our vision and objectives to drive our activities for the coming 5 years. Our vision is now GROWING IN LOVE for God and each other:

- in our sharing the GOOD NEWS.
- in our teaching and NURTURE
- in our acts of GENEROSITY
- in our speaking up for JUSTICE
- in our care for CREATION

What we achieved and how we affected beneficiaries' lives

in our sharing the GOOD NEWS

Our core priority is to maintain and grow our worshipping community and to reach out to our community and share the gospel message. This is foundational for growing and sustaining all our other priorities. In 2022 we saw a return to attendances at our Sunday services similar to that which we had before the Covid pandemic. We did however see a significant change in the demographic of our churchgoers. We have become much more multicultural as a church since we welcomed and supported many refugees and asylum seekers who had arrived in our village. Our regular services combined are now seeing average attendance of around 150 people. The numbers of people attending our special services, which are actively promoted to the

community, are usually much higher. We have continued to re-imagine how to 'do' church by having up-to-date worship styles and communication means to invite and engage with all types of people. We have maintained weekly children's / youth work programmes with a team of dedicated and inspiring leaders.

Our public worship activities have been of benefit to the wider community. All of our services are intentionally different in style but welcome a broad spectrum of people to join in worship, practical bible teaching, prayer, and generosity. For larger services, where weather has allowed, we have used our churchyard especially for some of the more popular services such as Remembrance Sunday so as to accommodate as many people as possible. The current number of people who are on the electoral roll is 124.

Coming out of the Covid Pandemic we were able to continue all key seasonal services such as Mothering Sunday, Easter, Harvest, Remembrance and Christmas which were very well attended by the wider community, including those who do not join us on a regular Sunday.

Our All Souls service in November was a particularly poignant, but very much appreciated, occasion where those who have lost loved ones joined for worship and the sharing of memories – this was held in Church but also available online for those unable to be in Church.



Our special Christmas Services (including those for our Remembrance Sunday service which was supported by both the Copthorne Silver Band and the local uniformed organisations who participated through readings and prayers to honour those who made the ultimate sacrifice in conflict) in 2022 saw a combined attendance of more than 1100 people in the time frame of just over 2 weeks.



In addition to Christmas church services, the choir again partnered with the Copthorne Silver Band to provide carol singing at the turning on the lights on the Village Green and various locations around the village. These events were another opportunity to bring Christmas to the village and particularly for those who may otherwise not have had any opportunity for religious encounter over the Christmas period.

We have been very pleased to work with the staff of our local schools in bringing the pupils into the churchyard for the schools' seasonal services. Our 'Open the Book' team have been able to visit the school on a limited number of occasions and for the upcoming year are ready to return more regularly to share Bible Stories at the school assemblies.

Information about church activities is now very accessible, with our website detailing contacts and activities so we can share the vision of the church, bringing community and church together. The website has the capability to book into courses and events online, so reaching out to the local community.

Our church building is generally open during daylight hours on most days either for services or for anyone to use for moments of quiet reflection and a place of peace. We have also facilitated an online prayer board and a WhatsApp prayer group which is much appreciated by our church and village community.

Our church continues to be appreciated by many as a location where life events are celebrated with joy and thanksgiving.

in our TEACHING AND NURTURING

We continue to see people taking part in our Prayer gatherings, Alpha courses and children's & youth groups. We had 4 different Alpha Courses (3 at church and 1 online) They were run in 3 different languages, English, Farsi and Spanish. It has been the largest attendance of Alpha at St John's during the course of one year. Many other groups grew out of these Alpha's such as an online Alpha Course, a Connect Group, and a newly formed Bible Study Group. We have seen several people coming to faith in Jesus Christ and this has been a great joy to our church community. We held 5 Baptism preparation classes, had 41 candidates baptized and a further 20 candidates were confirmed in a service led by the Bishop of Horsham. In the Spring we organized a Marriage preparation course for 4 couples who all got married at St John's in the summer months following.

All our children and youth groups meet on a Sunday. Children and the younger youth meet during the 11am service. The Y6-Y8 group continue to explore the bible, talk about life and pray together. This year we have welcomed our new year 6 cohort and the group is settled and engages enthusiastically in the activities. The leadership team are committed and generous, planning each session and sharing God's love with the young people. On Sunday evening at 7pm the Y9+ group meet and come together to study the bible, play games and occasionally go out together or do something creative such as drawing or writing a song.



At the start of the summer holidays, we again held our annual holiday club event called, 'Summer at St John's.' Our mornings at St John's were a fun way to start the summer holidays. Craft activities, games, worship and stories were led brilliantly by a team of volunteers who welcomed the children and invited them to enjoy the presence of God. We also have seen an increase in our Christian input in teaching and corporate worship at our local school(s), through weekly Christian themed assemblies.

All church members are encouraged to use their gifts of ministry at services - leading, welcoming, serving, reading lessons and leading prayers: we are very grateful to the musicians and singers who freely give of their expertise at both the 9.30am and the 11. 00 am services. We are also grateful to all

who support the preparation and streaming of services online and to those who maintain the Covid safe environment in church through additional cleaning between services.

During 2022 we were able to continue our monthly working parties and associated coffee mornings. This both assists us in the maintenance of the church and churchyard but also provides opportunity for an 'alternative' fellowship where informal discussions can take place. For some attendees this is the only form of 'church' they are comfortable with, and it gives us an opportunity to engage with those individuals and meet them where they are in their faith.

in our acts of GENEROSITY

Our Pastoral Ministry Team keeps in contact and visits those who are sick or lonely in our parish, and continues to provide pastoral engagements before, during and after our regular church services and at our online social events during the year. We have continued to keep in touch with the more vulnerable in our community through our 'Connect' groups maintaining email / WhatsApp / telephone contact with all church members on a regular basis. We have published a weekly online newsletter to keep all members up to date with life at St John's and have additionally printed and delivered this newsletter to those unable to access materials online.

We have several 'care in the community' homes within the parish with residents and their carers attending the Sunday and weekday services, albeit in some instances online in the current climate. Sadly, due to restrictions in place church services at our local care homes did not resume in 2022 due to localised Covid outbreaks, but we are hoping to resume fully in 2023 once it is safe for us to do so.

In 2022 we launched our international café – offering for some an opportunity for integration, for some the learning of the English language and for some purely the opportunity of a coffee, board games and some company. Each café incorporates Christian learning as well as additional resources (such as bibles) in several mother tongues.

Quotes from people attending the I-Café:

'I want to learn English and like talking to the volunteers and practising English'.

'I like the way we are treated. The helpers are excellent people and I feel I am learning slowly'.



I like the cake!'

'We like learning about the country, it is good for our mental health, we meet new people, and it creates better integration into the society. We learn new things and can explore the religion and people of the U.K'.

Quotes from volunteers:

'It is a wonderful opportunity to meet the asylum seekers and learn about other cultures, the diversity and customs of other countries'.

'I love meeting people from all over the world, learning so much and sharing what I have'.

This year we again donated children's bibles to all the year 3's at Copthorne Junior School and Youth Bibles to the Year 6's at their leaver's service.

Social events are a key point of our ministry to the village, enabling church members to invite others to join us. We were delighted to be able to continue these events during 2022. The Social team work hard planning events throughout the year which are well attended by both church members and the village and wider community. Highlights of 2022 included:

- Weekly coffee mornings outside at the coffee bars and at the I-Café
- Monthly coffee mornings in church during the working parties
- Various quiz nights - including a Tearfund themed quiz raising both the profile and funds for the work of Tearfund.
- The return of Jazz on the Green
- Teas and refreshments at the annual Copthorne Carnival.
- The Flower and Produce Show / Harvest Fair which we used to launch our wildflower seeding of an area of the churchyard and our mission to plant trees in and around the village – supported by our local Haskins Garden Centre.

In addition to all this we maintained our commitment to other charitable giving, by supporting local and overseas mission and development agencies and continued to sponsor, produce and distribute our local Copthorne Magazine to all village residents and by publishing it online.

Planned monthly giving continues to the Church Mission Society, for Heather Johnstone at the Rehema project in Tanzania, and Compassion, paying school fees for Ivan in Uganda. Ivan writes with his thanks for his education, his letters inspire us with his expressions of his faith in Jesus.

The Rehema project supports abused women and children by giving them work in a craft workshop and café.

Christian Aid Week was organised again in the delivery of envelopes and co-ordinated central collection points in the village. We continued to support The Children's Society, via home boxes and the collection at the open air Christingle service, and The Royal British Legion at our Remembrance Service.

The church is the village collection point for groceries and toiletries for Crawley Open House, sending them supplies to help them care for the local homeless. Towards the end of the year St John's has also become a partner in the 'Love Your Neighbour' campaign collecting for and promoting this organisation which is providing relief to those facing economic hardship in our local community.

Most of our events are advertised around the village and in our local Copthorne Magazine. The printing and delivery of the bi-monthly Copthorne Magazine is co-ordinated by the church and supported by local advertising. It contains news, events and reports on church and local activities with the 2000 + copies being delivered free to every home in Copthorne by a team of village and church volunteers.

in our speaking up for JUSTICE

We also set a priority that helps us to engage with global justice issues and to connect and support agencies that engage with refugees, migrants, asylum seekers and those who rescue people from modern day slavery. As noted above we have been involved in supporting refugees and asylum seekers who currently reside within our community. Furthermore, we have been actively engaged with our local / county councils and the Home Office and have been advocating the rights of these individuals – for example in provision of education for the children amongst them. As church community we wrote to our own MP highlighting some of the injustices that asylum seekers face, especially the long waiting times they experience before being interviewed. We also continue to be engaging and supporting with charities which are involved with the advocacy of the rights for the more vulnerable in the world such as Christian Aid and Tearfund.

in our care for CREATION

In 2022 we began Forest Church. 3 sessions were held in the autumn and more are planned for 2023. This has been a wonderful opportunity to gather in the churchyard to connect with creation and our creator God.



We continue to be committed to reduce our carbon footprint individually as well as a church Community and would like to become an accredited (Silver or Gold) Eco Church. In 2019 we attained the Bronze Award for Eco Church and recycle materials where possible. In 2022 we started to look into how we can improve our church building to make it fit for purpose and how to deliver improvements to attain the desired next level accreditation. As in the previous year we continued to set aside and seed an area of our churchyard to be a 'wildflower meadow' and encourage nature to thrive. Furthermore, we continued the focus in our Harvest celebration and Harvest Fair was on 'caring for creation' and launching our vision for planting 500 trees in and around the village in the coming years.

The Parish Hub, opened in 2015, is proving of great benefit to church and community alike, accommodating St. John's Sunshine Pre-School, Friday Friends Teas, various sporting activities and exercise classes for all ages. The presence of the Parish Hub has increased the footfall through the churchyard with many villagers enjoying the attractive space. The Parish Hub has a management team which ensures the smooth running of bookings, financial security and a high standard of upkeep. In addition to our volunteers, the church employs a caretaker and assistant

and a Hub co-ordinator – who manages marketing, bookings and some of the day to day issues that arise.

The churchyard is well cared for, which is much appreciated by villagers. Most of the routine maintenance of the church and churchyard is done by volunteers from the church and community at the “First Saturday” work parties and coffee mornings. Team building and refreshments are an important part of these occasions. The churchyard remains in good order for the benefit of the village. Volunteer cleaners and flower arrangers keep the church tidy and attractive week by week.



During Advent this year the churchyard was decorated for Christmas with themes of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. Four installations were setup outside as well as inside the church. These displays were very well received by the community and saw visits to the churchyard and photos on Facebook posts (many from non-churchgoing members of the community).

PARISH MINISTRY COSTS

We continued to fulfil our contribution to our Parish Ministry Costs for 2022 making a payment of £76,967 to Chichester Diocesan Board of Finance (DBF). We thank all donors to St John's church who have enabled us to do this again for another year. For 2023 we have committed to meet the increased parish share request of £78,795.

The PCC expresses a heartfelt thank you to all who give up their time in running different ministries, providing hospitality, care and outreach and to those looking after our premises. The hard work of each and every one is much appreciated.

Financial Review

The total receipts on general unrestricted funds received were £174,837 (£167,062 for 2021) and are detailed in the Financial Report. Expenditure also increased and the surplus on Unrestricted Funds reduced. It should be noted that a legacy of £10,000 was received in 2021 (£1,000 in 2022).

The value of the Churches invested Endowment Funds fell by £11,917 during 2022 and therefore Total Funds of the Church at the 31st December 2022 were £771,861 (2021 £784,145).

- During 2023, we will be making increasing use of the Parish Giving Scheme operated by Gloucester Diocese. This will streamline the collection of Gift Aid and can also provide for automatic annual increases in pledges to allow for inflation.
- The PCC paid £76,967 to the Diocese towards ministry costs for the stipend, housing and pension costs of the clergy and church insurance as well as a standard sum for diocesan central costs, clergy training and a contribution to the national church fund. This represents the full cost of our Parish Share and has been achieved by encouraging the congregation to give generously.
- During 2022 we provided significant support for the Asylum Seekers in the Parish and our expenditure on both faith and non-faith charitable donations increased considerably

Reserves Policy It is the PCC's policy:

- To maintain a Net asset balance on the general unrestricted funds (excluding property) which equates to approximately three months' worth of unrestricted payments as contingency against unforeseen situations. The closing balance of £51,903 achieves this Policy.
- To invest legacies restricted as to their objects with the churches, charities and local authorities financial provider, CCLA, until such time that suitable beneficiaries are identified by the PCC.

Independent Examiners Report

FIONNA THOMSON
5 Abergavenny Gardens
Copthorne
West Sussex
RH10 3RU
01342 719277

1 September 2022

Dear Sirs,

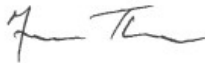
Review of St John's Church Accounts for year ended 31 December 2022

I have undertaken a review of the annual accounts and the supporting documents for St John's Church for the financial year ending 31 December 2022 and I am pleased to be able to confirm that I have found no material misstatements or omissions. Sample records were agreed back to the ledger balance and in turn agreed back to the year-end accounts. In my opinion adequate records have been kept by the Church and the financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records.

Thank you to Mr Kerry Scott who has provided information and assisted in answering any questions that have arisen during this review process.

Should you have any questions or would like further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,



Fionna Thomson MA, FCCA

Structure, Governance and Management.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is registered with the Charity Commission as required by the Charities Act 2011. Its governing document is the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956.

During the year the following served as members of the Parochial Church Council:

Ex Officio members

Incumbent:	The Rev'd Willem Mauritz
Assistant Curate:	The Rev'd Alexandra Wheeler
Wardens:	Mr David Hornsby Mrs Gillian Hodsdon

Elected Members:	Mr Michael Livesey	Until 2023
	Mr Nigel Cramp	Until 2024
	Mr Jonathan Brueton	Until 2024
	Mrs Susan Williams	Until 2025
	Mrs Lesley Dawson	Until 2025
	Mrs Jan Leftley	Until 2025
	Mrs Anita Findon	TBC
	Mrs Jennifer Wharton	TBC

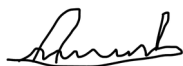
Appointed Members:	Mr Andrew Taylor	Treasurer then Build Project Lead
	Mr Kerry Scott (from December)	Treasurer
	Mrs Cathy Sexton	Secretary
	Mr Eric Trevett	Safeguarding Officer

Deanery Synod:	Mr Andrew Harpham	Until 2023
	Mr Ian Hornsby	Until 2023

The PCC has appointed Eric Trevett as Safeguarding Officer, who ensures he is up-to-date with Diocesan Safeguarding Policies and that the PCC is advised of any changes. In addition, he maintains the DBS register of those working with children and vulnerable adults or in leadership roles at St. John's. We have recruited more youth workers, leaders and adult carers this year. We are enrolled on the Simple Quality Protects system with the diocese to maintain best practice.

Membership of the PCC is determined under the Church Representation Rules and consists of certain ex-officio members (the incumbent, curate, readers licensed to officiate in the church, the Churchwardens), members of the Deanery, Diocesan or General synods and 11 members of the church who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). Church members are warmly encouraged to stand for election to the PCC and we try to ensure a balance of skills and experience where possible.

This Trustee's Annual Report was approved by the PCC and signed on their behalf by Rev'd W Mauritz.

Signed 

Date: 13/09/2023

The Parochial Church Council of St John the Evangelist, Copthorne
Statement of Financial Activities
For the year ended 31 December 2022

	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund/s	Endowed Fund/s	Total Funds 2022	<i>Total Funds 2021</i>	Notes
	£	£	£	£	£	
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies	94,939	1,235		96,174	110,844	
Charitable activities	20,208			20,208	10,208	
Other trading activities	45,549			45,549	46,488	
Investments	7,426	2,656		10,082	2,614	
Other receipts	6,715			6,715		
Total income	174,837	3,891	0	178,728	170,154	2
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	2,830			2,830	25	
Charitable activities	138,110	2,593		140,703	123,152	
Other trading activities	21,457			21,457	40,161	
Other expenditure	1,499			1,499		
Parish Magazine	12,606			12,606		
Total expenditure	176,502	2,593	0	179,095	163,337	3
Net gains (or losses) on investments			(11,917)	(11,917)	12,670	10
Net income or (net expenditure)	(1,665)	1,298	(11,917)	(12,284)	19,487	
Transfers between funds	(638)	638	0	0	0	9
Other recognised gains/(losses):						
Gains/(losses) on revaluation of fixed assets						
Other gains/(losses)						
<i>Reconciliation of funds:</i>						
Net movement in funds	(2,303)	1,936	(11,917)	(12,284)	19,487	
Total funds brought forward	469,393	213,216	101,536	784,145	764,658	
Total funds carried forward	467,090	215,152	89,619	771,861	784,145	

The Parochial Church Council of St John the Evangelist, Copthorne

Balance Sheet

As at 31 December 2022

	Total Funds 2,022	Total Funds 2,021	Notes
	£	£	
Intangible assets			
Tangible assets	600,908	606,973	11
Heritage assets			
Endowed investments	89,619	101,537	10
Total fixed assets	690,527	708,509	
Stocks			
Debtors	9,521	8,620	13
Investments			
Cash at bank and in hand	77,969	77,759	
Total current assets	87,490	86,379	
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	(6,155)	(10,743)	14
Net current assets or (liabilities)	83,037	75,636	
Total assets less current liabilities	771,861	784,145	
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year			
Provisions for liabilities			
Total net assets or (liabilities)	771,861	784,145	
The funds of the charity:			
Endowment funds	89,619	101,537	
Restricted income funds	215,153	213,216	
Unrestricted funds	467,089	469,392	
Revaluation reserve			
Total charity funds	771,861	784,145	12,15

The notes on pages 13 to 23 form part of these accounts.

This Financial Report for the year ended 31st December 2022, including the notes following, was approved by the PCC and signed on its behalf by The Revd. Willem Mauritz.



Date 13/09/2023

The Parochial Church Council of St John the Evangelist, Copthorne

Notes to the Financial Report

1 Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS102. The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and the Church Accounting Regulations 2006, in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the current Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities, (SORP (FRS 102)).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention as modified by the inclusion of investments at market value. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their affiliation to another body, nor those which are informal gatherings of church members.

Funds accounting

Funds held by the PCC are:

Unrestricted funds - general funds which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes.

Designated funds - monies set aside by the PCC out of unrestricted funds for specific future purposes or projects.

Restricted funds - a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest; b) donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of the year is carried forward as a balance on that fund.

Endowment funds - funds for which the capital must be maintained; only income arising from the investment of the endowment may be used, either as restricted or unrestricted funds, depending on the purpose set out in the terms of the original endowment.

Income and endowments

All income and endowments, accounted for without deduction for any costs of receivability, are recognised when there is evidence of entitlement, receipt is probable, and the amount can be measured reliably.

Donations and legacies

Collections are recognised when received.

Planned giving receivable is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement, receipt is probable, and the amount accords with the Gift Aid declaration or other record of intention to donate.

Gift aid recovered is recognised when the income to which it is attached is recognised.

Grants and legacies are recognised when the formal offer in writing of the funding, is received by the PCC.

Charitable activities

Statutory fees for weddings and funerals are recognised when the office occurs. Rental fees are recognised in accordance with the rental agreement, when receipt is probable.

Other trading activities

Trading activities are where income is receivable in return for selling goods or providing services. Income from trading is recognised either: a - when received, or b - in the case of concerts: for the year in which the event occurs, irrespective of date of receipt. Advance bookings are included in creditors until the concert has taken place.

Magazine advertising income is recognised when the magazine is published.

Rents from property are recognised in accordance with the rental agreements, when receipt is probable.

Investment income

Dividends are accounted for when due and payable. Interest entitlements are accounted for as they accrue.

The Parochial Church Council of St John the Evangelist, Cophorne

Notes to the Financial Report

All other income

All other income is recognised in accordance with the above overall policy.

Gains and losses on investments

Realised gains are recognised when the investments are sold.

Unrealised gains and losses are accounted for on revaluation at 31 December.

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement, payment is probable, and the amount can be measured reliably.

Grants

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded where the award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

Church activities

The diocesan parish contribution is accounted for on an annual basis, reflecting the allocation set by our Deanery. Any parish contribution unpaid at 31 December is provided for in these accounts as an operational (though not a legal) liability and is shown as a creditor in the balance sheet.

Fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets

Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from the accounts by s.10(2) of the Charities Act 2011.

Movable church furnishing held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal, are accounted as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the church's inventory which can be inspected but are not included in the financial statements. For other property acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore the cost of such assets is not stated in the financial statements.

All expenditure on consecrated or beneficed buildings and individual items costing under £2000 are written off in the year they were incurred.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated to write down the cost of tangible fixed assets, excluding freehold properties, over their expected useful lives. The rates generally applicable are:

Land and buildings	Nil
Ride on lawnmower	33%
Fixtures and fittings	25%
Audio visual equipment	25%
Office equipment	33%

No depreciation is provided on freehold buildings as the useful economic life of these assets exceeds 50 years and residual values so high that potential depreciation would be immaterial. It is the PCC's policy to maintain these assets in a continual state of sound repair. Resulting from regular impairment reviews, provision will be made if there has been any permanent diminution in value.

Investments

Investments are stated at market value at the balance sheet date.

Current Assets

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31 December in respect of fees, rents or other income are shown as debtors, less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectable.

Short-term deposits include cash held on deposit either with the CBF Church of England Funds, or at the bank.

The Parochial Church Council of St John the Evangelist, Copthorne

Notes to the Financial Report

2. Analysis of income and endowments

	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund/s	Total Funds 2022	<i>Total Funds 2021</i>
	£	£	£	£
Planned giving (excl. tax refunds)	67,016	310	67,326	60,858
Loose cash collections	6,474		6,474	10,246
Other special appeals	2,573		2,573	1,638
Gift Aid recoverable	17,759	175	17,734	26,251
Legacies	1,000		1,000	10,000
Grants		750	750	1,850
Other Funds Generated	317		317	
Donations and legacies	94,939	1,235	96,174	110,844
Fees for weddings & funerals	9,734		9,734	10,208
Fund raising	10,474		10,474	
Charitable activities	20,208		20,208	10,208
				2,713
Parish hub hiring fees	33,252		33,632	21,902
Magazine advertising fees	11,917		11,917	11,671
Other trading activities	45,549		45,549	46,488
Bank & CBF deposit interest	306	2,656	2,962	2,614
Rent from WPC for South Room	7,120		7,120	
Investments	7,426	2,656	10,082	2,614
Other receipts(Insurance Claim)	6,714		6,714	
Total income and endowments on all funds	174,837	3,891	178,728	170,154

The Parochial Church Council of St John the Evangelist, Copthorne

Notes to the Financial Report

3. Analysis of expenditure

	Unrestrict ed Fund	Restrict ed Fund/s	Total Funds 2022	Total Funds 2021
	£	£	£	£
Special appeals costs				
Stewardship costs				
Other fundraising costs	2,830		2,830	25
Cost of raising funds	2,830		2,830	25
Charitable grants and donations	4,061		4,061	1,751
Mission & evangelism costs	1,522		1,522	1,508
Diocesan parish share	76,967		76,967	74,035
Clergy and other people's expenses	4,189		4,189	784
Salaries and honoraria incl NI	14,125		14,125	14,220
Upkeep of services	10,690		10,690	3,091
Church running costs	11,740		11,740	15,964
Church maintenance and repair	5,073		5,073	1,171
Upkeep of churchyard		2,593	2,593	1,121
Parsonage costs	3,402		3,402	3,167
Depreciation	6,066		6,066	6,065
Governance	275		275	275
Cost of charitable activities	138,110	2,593	140,703	123,152
Parish hub running costs	21,457		21,457	23,880
Wedding & funeral fees & costs	1,499		1,499	3,700
Parish magazine costs	12,606		12,606	11,228
Loan interest	0		0	104
Cost of other trading activities	35,562		35,562	40,161
Total expended on all funds	176,502	2,593	179,095	163,337

The Parochial Church Council of St John the Evangelist, Copthorne

Notes to the Financial Report

4. Missionary and charitable giving

	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund/s	Endowed Fund/s	Total Funds 2022	<i>Total Funds 2021</i>
	£	£	£	£	£
<i>Church Mission Society - Rehema</i>	480			480	930
<i>Donations of Bibles</i>	1,290			1,290	
<i>Water Aid</i>	26			26	
<i>Asylum Seekers Support</i>	2,591			2,591	
<i>Compassion UK</i>	336			336	411
<i>Tearfund</i>	680			680	400
<i>Other charities</i>	180			180	10
	5,583			5,583	3,259

5. Staff costs

	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund/s	Endowed Fund/s	Total Funds 2022	<i>Total Funds 2021</i>
	£	£	£	£	£
Remuneration					
<i>Wages, salaries, tax, NI and pension costs</i>	26,952	1,357		28,309	14,220
	26,952	1,357		28,309	14,220

No person received remuneration in excess of £60,000.

6. Payments to PCC members

Mrs L Dawson received £322 in her role as vergers. Mr N Cramp received £3,822 as an employee of the church.

Other payments were made to PCC members in the year for reimbursement of expenses incurred on behalf of the PCC:

- Clergy support: Council tax £2,914, water £293, travel and other miscellaneous expenses £4,189.
- Five PCC members received reimbursement for administrative, fundraising and maintenance expenses amounting in total to £434.72

The Parochial Church Council of St John the Evangelist, Copthorne

Notes to the Financial Report

7. Transactions with related charities

St John's Sunshine Pre School is a separate charity, a related party to this PCC. During 2022 £9,080 (2021 £5,108) was paid to St John's Church from St John's Sunshine Pre School for use of the Parish Hub and for parish magazine adverts.

8. Governance

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Fund/s	Endowed Fund/s	Total Funds 2022	<i>Total Funds 2021</i>
	£	£	£	£	£
Independent examination	275			275	275
Total	275	0	0	275	275

9. Transfers between funds

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Fund/s	Endowed Fund/s	Total Funds 2022	<i>Total Funds 2021</i>
	£	£	£	£	£
Transfer for churchyard expenses	(638)	638		0	0
Total	(638)	638		0	0

10. Fixed assets - Investments

	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund/s	Endowed Fund/s	Total Funds 2022
	£	£	£	£
Market value 1 January 2022			101,537	101,537
Disposals at carrying value				
Purchases at cost				
Net gains and revaluation			(11,917)	(11,917)
Market value 31 December 2022			89,619	89,619

The Parochial Church Council of St John the Evangelist, Copthorne

Notes to the Financial Report

11. Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings	Audio visual equipment	Total fixed assets
	£	£	£
Cost or valuation			
At 1 January 2022	588,777	24,261	613,038
Additions			
Disposals			
Revaluation			
At 31 December 2022	588,777	24,261	613,038
Charge for impairment			
At 1 January 2022		(6,065)	(6,065)
Charge for Impairment		(6,066)	(6,066)
Disposals			
Revaluation			
At 31 December 2022		12,131	12,131
Net book amounts			
At 31 December 2022	588,777	12,131	600,907
<i>At 31 December 2021</i>	588,777	18,196	606,973

The freehold land and buildings comprise the Parish Hub building. The historical cost of this property was £588,777. In the opinion of the PCC its current market value is estimated to be in excess of the historical cost.

12. Net assets by fund

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Fund/s	Endowed Fund/s	Total Funds 2022	<i>Total Funds 2021</i>
	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets for church use	385,754	215,153		600,907	<i>606,973</i>
Investment fixed assets			89,619	89,619	<i>101,537</i>
Current assets (except cash)	9,521			9,521	<i>8,620</i>
Cash, at bank and on deposit	77,969			77,969	<i>77,759</i>
Current liabilities	(6,155)			(6,155)	<i>(10,743)</i>
Long term liabilities					
	467,089	215,153	89,619	771,861	<i>784,145</i>

The Parochial Church Council of St John the Evangelist, Copthorne

Notes to the Financial Report

13. Debtors

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Fund/s	Endowed Fund/s	Total Funds 2022	<i>Total Funds 2021</i>
	£	£	£	£	£
Income tax recoverable	4,402			4,402	5,676
Prepayments and accrued income	1,390			1,390	
Magazine Advert Fees Due	1,889			1,889	
Other debtors	1,840			1,840	2,944
	9,521	0	0	9,521	8,620

14. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Fund/s	Endowed Fund/s	Total Funds 2022	<i>Total Funds 2021</i>
	£	£	£	£	£
Deferred income					
Accruals for utilities and other costs	2,471			2,471	6,776
Other creditors	3,684			3,684	3,967
	6,155	0	0	6,155	10,743

The Parochial Church Council of St John the Evangelist, Copthorne

Notes to the Financial Report

15. 2021 Comparatives for the statement of financial activities

	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund/s	Endowed Fund/s	Total Funds 2021
	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	109,684	1,160		110,844
Charitable activities	10,208			10,208
Other trading activities	46,488			46,488
Investments	682	1,933		2,614
Other receipts				
Total income	167,062	3,093	0	170,154
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	25			25
Charitable activities	120,200	2,951		123,152
Other trading activities	40,057	104		40,161
Other expenditure				
Total expenditure	160,282	3,055	0	163,337
Net gains (or losses) on investments	0	0	12,670	12,670
Net income or (net expenditure)	6,780	38	12,670	19,487
Transfers between funds	(995)	995	0	19,487
Other recognised gains/(losses):				
Gains/(losses) on revaluation of fixed assets				
Other gains/(losses)				
<i>Reconciliation of funds:</i>				
Net movement in funds	5,785	1,033	12,670	19,487
Total funds brought forward	463,608	212,183	88,867	764,658
Total funds carried forward	469,393	213,216	101,537	784,145

The Parochial Church Council of St John the Evangelist, Copthorne

Notes to the Financial Report

16. Statement of funds

Fund income and expenditure and final balances are as follows:

	Balances b/fwd 01/01/22	Income	Expenditure	Transfers Other gains and losses	Balances c/fwd 31/12/22
	£	£	£	£	£
Faith Arnold trust	55,454			(6,528)	48,926
Payne grave fund	300				300
Churchyard trust	45,782			(5,389)	40,393
Total of all endowed funds	101,536			(11,917)	89,619
Fabric fund	4,152	1,455			5,607
Annex fund	51,199	481			51,680
Building fund	157,865				157,865
Churchyard fund	(994)	1,955	(2,593)	1,632	0
Total of all restricted funds	212,222	3,891	(2,593)	1,632	215,152
General fund	55,201	174,837	(176,502)	(1,632)	51,903
Designated building fund	410,312				410,312
Legacy fund	4,874				4,874
Total of all unrestricted funds	470,387	174,837	(176,502)	(1,632)	467,090
Total funds	784,145	178,728	(179,095)	(11,917)	771,861

Explanation of funds

Endowed funds are required by the donors to be invested and the income spent on specific objectives

The Faith Arnold trust is a permanent endowment, invested in CBF Investment Fund shares, which requires the income to be spent on the maintenance and improvement of the church building.

The Payne grave fund is a permanent endowment, invested in CBF Investment Fund shares, which requires the income to be spent on the maintenance of the churchyard.

The Churchyard trust is a permanent endowment, invested in CBF Investment Fund shares, which requires the income to be spent on the churchyard and outdoor areas.

Restricted funds are not invested permanently but are to be spent within reasonable timescales.

The Fabric Fund is restricted to the maintenance and improvement of the church building.

The Annex fund is restricted to the *Link* project to extend the church building, increase the space available for worship and provide a more flexible and functional space. The Building fund is restricted and was used to fund the development of the church office.

The Churchyard Fund is restricted to the maintenance of the churchyard and outdoor areas.

Unrestricted funds are not subject to any donor restrictions and can be spent as the PCC decides. The unrestricted fund includes amounts designated for the building of the Parish Hub, and also an unrestricted legacy which has been set aside for specific uses to be determined by the PCC.

Accounts



GROWING IN LOVE for God & each other



(Outdoor Christingle Service)

Annual Parochial Church Reports 2021

Charity Number 1155185



Annual Vestry & Parochial Church Meeting In Church and via Zoom Tuesday 29th March 2022 at 7:45pm

Agenda

Annual Vestry Meeting

Minutes of Annual Vestry Meeting 2021	p	4
Election of Churchwardens (2)		

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Apologies		
Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2021	P	4
Matters arising		

Electoral Roll - accept new Roll

Reports:

Vicar's Report	P	7
Warden's Report	P	7
Parish Office Report	P	9
Safeguarding Report	P	9
The Link Report	P	10
Women's Ministry Report	P	10
Youth Ministry Report	P	10
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Independent Examiner's Report		

Questions arising from the Reports

Appointment of Treasurer & Secretary

Appointment of Safeguarding Officer

Election of PCC members

(at Copthorne, for the sake of continuity, if not otherwise elected, the PCC Secretary & Treasurer are co-opted positions)

Appointment of Sidespersons

Appointment of Independent Examiner

Any Other Business



**Copy of the record of the Minutes of
The Annual Vestry Meeting
held via Zoom at 8.00pm
Tuesday 20th April 2021**

The meeting was conducted by Wim Mauritz (Vicar) in the presence of 30 parishioners.

The Minutes of the Vestry Meeting of Tuesday 13th October 2020 were unanimously approved. Proposer: Mary Smith, Seconder: Ian Hornsby

Mr David Hornsby (proposed by Lesley Dawson and seconded by Ian Hornsby) and Mrs Gillian Hodsdon (proposed by Liz Logan and seconded by Murial) were unanimously elected as there were no other nominations and duly appointed wardens for the coming year.

Wim thanked David and Gillian for all their hard work and support over the past six months. Monica thanked everyone for their support over her time as warden.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.10pm.

Cathy Sexton, PCC Secretary, 20th April 2020

**Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Held on Tuesday 20th April 2021
At 8.10pm via Zoom**

Attendance:

The meeting was conducted by Wim Mauritz (Vicar) and attended by 30 parishioners.

Apologies:

Received from: Eric and Jill Trevett, Monica Polley, Elizabeth Coomber, John and Val Edwards, Penny Harpham, Cedne Paul, Kirsty Mauritz, Maggie Prior and Eddie Redfern

MINUTES:

Formal business:

Apologies as noted were accepted.

Proposal: That the Minutes of the APCM 2020 be accepted.

Proposed: Mike Livesey

Seconded: Paul Simmonds

Unanimously agreed.

There were no matters arising from the 2020 reports.

Electoral Roll – It was unanimously agreed that we accept the Roll of 129 members.

Proposed: Nigel Cramp

Seconded: Mary Smith

REPORTS:

Annual Report 2020

It was unanimously agreed that all reports – Annual Report, Wardens, Safeguarding officer, Parish Hub, Link, Supporting Mission, Deanery Synod, Trustees, The Link and Financial Reports - as previously circulated were accepted. Wim thanked everyone for their contribution towards the annual report and said that, despite lockdown, the church had managed to continue having weekly services and the congregation now included people who viewed the services on line.

Proposed: Sue Williams

Seconded: Sandra Cramp

Financial Reports and Accounts:

The income for 2020 was £184,747 was higher than the 2019 figure of £171,089 and this was due to increased giving from the congregation. Fundraising and income from the Hub had been lower due to COVID but some of this had been offset by the grant schemes, such as furlough, that had been made available during the pandemic. The expenditure for 2020 was £158,782 which was similar to the 2019 figure of £158,609. The largest expense was the Parish Share which had increased to the full amount due. No questions/comments on the accounts were raised.

Adoption of Accounts

Proposal: That we adopt the accounts as presented.

Proposer: Mike Livesey

Seconder: Andy Harpham

All agreed.

Wim thanked Ted, Nigel, David Hornsby and Mike Livesey was thanked for all his hard work over the past year.

Appointment of Treasurer and PCC Secretary

It was unanimously agreed that Ted Gray be appointed **Treasurer**

It was unanimously agreed that Cathy Sexton be appointed **PCC Secretary**

It was unanimously agreed that Eddie Redfern be appointed **Safeguarding Officer**.

Elections

PCC

Angela Vevers stood down as a Deanery Synod representative. Nigel Cramp was unanimously elected.

Sidespersons

During the pandemic, the following people have been welcoming people to the services:

Sandra Cramp, Sandra Godfrey, Gillian Hodsdon, Monica Polley, Cathy Sexton and Maralyn Smith.

It was unanimously agreed that these people would continue to do so until such times as the whole congregation was back in church when other sidespersons would be appointed.

Appointment of Fionna Thomson as Independent Examiner

Proposed by David Horsby

Seconded by Nigel Cramp

Any Other Business

Sandra thanked Wim, Paul, Alex and Liz for their work during the pandemic to ensure that the church services continued.

Wim thanked the clergy and those who lead at the 11am service for all their support and work during the past year and Maralyn for all her work in the office and behind the scenes to keep things running smoothly.

Muriel stated that the sound at the Easter day service outside was brilliant but that sometimes during the online services, the sound is not always loud enough meaning that some people cannot be heard.

There being no further business, the meeting closed with the saying of the Grace at 8.40pm.

Cathy Sexton, PCC Secretary

Reports

From the Vicar:

Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail.

They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. (Lamentations 3:22-23)

Many of us hoped that 2021 would be different to 2020 with, "a return to normality." Although there was some easing off in Covid-restrictions last summer this did however change towards the end of the year as infections rose again at an alarming rate. Yet throughout it all our church community adapted its practice and remained agile offering fellowship and an open church to everyone. After a dramatic drop in physical attendance in the previous year, 2021 saw a steady return in church attendance. We had a record of open-air services and out-door events. Easter, Pentecost, Summer at St John's, Harvest, Remembrance Sunday, Christingle were all celebrated outside in our churchyard. We developed a mixture of online and physical meetings. Our Standing Committee, Alpha course, and some of our connect groups meetings were held online, whereas our PCC meetings and other team meetings returned to in-person gatherings. We reduced some of the online-streaming of our church services to one service per Sunday.

These Annual Reports show us again how much our church kept adapting to continue to be a community of love, care, and worship. I keep being amazed by the energy that people have shown in pursuing creative ways of being church. Evidence is the fact that many of us pro-actively welcomed and supported the integration refugees and asylum seekers in our village who arrived last November. Many of these have now taken pro-active part in our church-community making our worship gathering rich and varied. I am incredibly grateful and want to express a huge thank you to all of you that stepped up and persevered in contributing in these changing ways of doing church, whilst also being faithful to the gospel of Jesus Christ, handed on to us by previous generations. I am so thankful to God, for His faithfulness and compassion. His great love is the source of our hope so that we in turn can replicate His compassion and generosity to many in our wider community.

Thank you so much for being part of, "Growing in love for God and each other."

Wim Mauritz

Churchwardens' Report

2021 was a continuing year of challenge and constant change for St John's as COVID risks shifted, requiring regular and ongoing reviews of how we could safely worship. Thankfully our experiences in 2020 had established a firm bedrock involving streaming and this provided a fallback for us as we gradually relaxed restrictions especially concerning gatherings and singing.

As last year's report revealed our AV equipment was not up to the mark to support virtual worship and therefore it was wonderful to see a new sound

system and fixed HD cameras installed in January. For most of us the last two years has accelerated our embrace of technology and it is pleasing to see that St John's has been at the forefront in this regard, continuing to develop the use of WhatsApp, Zoom and Church Suite to aid communication and our prayer reach. We recognise that technology is not the first choice for us all and we do try to provide alternatives where possible. We will continue to work to achieve the right balance.

COVID relaxations allowed us to organise far more events in the last year. Wherever possible these were held outside and although they create many logistical challenges it has been proven that they are welcomed by the village as well our regular attendees. Easter Sunday saw more than 100 people socially distanced in the churchyard. It was joyful to be able to reintroduce the choir and band to our worship as the vaccination programme began to offer protection, giving us all a feeling more akin to normality.

Some of the highlights have been:

- DISCOVER, for the women in the church
- The LiveLent series on evangelism (*"A missionary is not someone who crosses the sea, but someone who sees the Cross"*)
- The new 7pm Sunday service, a quiet meditative services of worship scripture prayer and testimony
- The picnic in our churchyard, on a beautiful August afternoon
- The Harvest Fair, a valued village event supported by the Copthorne Silver Band
- Our first outside Baptism

The reintroduction in June of the Saturday monthly Work Party began to make a real difference to our Church and Churchyard, just in time for the Carnival Hub Teas to take place in July. The summer and early autumn saw us reopen face to face indoor social events. Despite the Omicron variant emerging locally in December we were still able to run our usual programme of Christmas events and services including supporting the Christmas Village Santa float where we found the Village to be so generous this year.

As we reflect on all that has gone before we must take time to say a very big thank you to all those who supported us and made sure that all that needed to be done was seen through, despite all the challenges, demonstrating once again that St John's lives out its vision of *"Growing in Love for God and each other"*.

Hebrews 10:24-25

24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, 25 not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

*David Hornsby and Gillian Hodsdon
Church Wardens*

Parish Office

The Parish Office has returned to normal working practices following a long period of working from home. The office is staffed Monday, Tuesday and Thursday mornings with a steady stream of visitors from those volunteers setting up the I-Café, Morning Prayer, to those wishing for further information on our church, church grounds, baptisms, funerals, and interment of ashes. The Office acts as a central point for Parish Hub enquiries, key collection and hire enquiries.

ChurchSuite has once again proved invaluable in enabling us to keep in touch, publicise events and communicate. A weekly update is now sent out to over 250 people in our village and community with an overwhelmingly enthusiastic response. A hard copy of this is also delivered to those without the internet connection by Louise Paul each week and copies are available at the back of church.

A new scheme in response to our Safeguarding policy has been devolved each Sunday where all children leaving the church for activities are required to be checked in and out.

Meetings are held monthly with staff and volunteers responsible for the Parish Hub, bi-monthly with the social and leadership team and every two months with the Health and Safety team. Risk assessments have proved increasingly necessary over the last year in response to the Government and Church of England Covid restrictions.

With Church slowly returning to 'normal' and an increasing number of visitors, including our friends from overseas, the office is busier than ever. We have 8 baptisms already booked with many more enquiries and 3 weddings in the diary for this year already!

We are richly blessed!

Maralyn Smith

Safeguarding Report

Safeguarding remains an important part of our daily ministry. With concerns over children's mental health following the pandemic. Whilst there have not been any major issues related to this, it is generally accepted that problems may arise in the coming years. DBS checks and recruitment of our youth leaders continued in 2021, along with the diocesan safeguarding training. Eddie has decided to step down as our safeguarding Officer after quite a number of years in the post. Eric Trevett has kindly agreed to take over and is currently undergoing the appropriate training. Once completed a handover will take place.

Eddie Redfern

Subject to confirmation by the PCC, I shall be taking over from Eddie as the Parish Safeguarding Officer. My agreement to taking on the role was conditional upon first being able to undertake the appropriate Diocesan training, which I have now completed.

I'm married to Jill and we have a son and two grandchildren. We've lived in Copthorne for 34 years and I've been a member of the PCC since 2019.

Prior to taking retirement in 2011, I worked at Gatwick for H M Customs & Excise/Border Force in a middle management role responsible for up to 60 frontier control staff.

I was appointed as a Magistrate in 1989 and have sat since then in the adult and youth courts in West Sussex and Brighton.

Eric Trevett

Link Report

In line with a church vision to grow further, the Link Project has an important role in providing extra space for church activities and small community groups. At the start of 2020 it was anticipated that funds would be raised during 2020, so works could start during the first half of 2021.

With the impact Covid-19, it was necessary to rethink the timing of the project. This was because the lockdowns made it impossible to engage in the necessary fundraising, grants were not available and it also became important to maintain funding for both existing commitments.

During 2021, as restrictions ease and the return to physical church services takes place, there will be the opportunity to revisit the timeline for this scheme. Any funds already raised for the project and contributions received during 2020 are held separately ready to be used at the appropriate time.

Andrew Taylor

Women's Ministry

In February we enjoyed running our first physically present event since 2020. 'Discover Pilgrimage' was a lovely afternoon. A wide range of women came and it was a great opportunity to welcome women who do not regularly attend church services. We plan to run 2 events a year, to provide opportunities to discover God in new and refreshing ways, with a desire to welcome women from our wider community.

Kirsty Mauritz

Youth Ministry Report

This year it became evident that in order to meet the needs of our young people, we needed to create 2 youth gatherings. We now have a team who provide sessions during the 11 am service for years 6, 7 and 8. The older youth (year 9+) meet at 6.30pm.

Our morning sessions focus on opening the Bible together, reflecting on what this means for us and responding in prayer. We meet for 20 minutes in the vestry during the sermon, which means the young people are part of the wider

congregation and are involved in worship and community during the rest of the service. It is wonderful to see them often sitting together at the front of church, engaging with the service and opening their Bibles. This little group is growing and some weeks we have had 6 young people come. Every couple of months we use the Sunday mornings to play a ball game in the churchyard and invite the older youth to join in. This is an important part of our fellowship and fun.

Our leadership team is committed to enable the young people of our church to encounter God and we are lucky to have people in our congregation who give their time and energy to this important group of people.

In the year ahead we would like to see our youth numbers grow (through personal invitation), run 2 youth events, be part of a summer holiday programme in the church, develop our communication with the young people and add a volunteer to our leadership team.

Kirsty Mauritz

Children's Activities Report

Children's Activities are now part of the 11am service on a Sunday. After joining in with the start of the service, they go to The Hub for their own session of teaching and learning. The children return to church before the end of the service and share their activities with the congregation.

Social Events

After a time of using technology for social events, with coffee mornings and quizzes held on Zoom, it was joyous to start meeting 'face-to-face' again! We started tentatively, with coffee mornings held outside when the weather permitted, but by the end of the year conditions allowed us to hold events inside again. There was a Tearfund Quiz and the ever popular Christmas Lunch.

Fortunately, we were able to have our two main events of the year – Carnival Teas and Produce Stall and the events of the Harvest Weekend. It was a great feeling to be able to open our doors to Copthorne again.

Thank you to all those who help with the social events, whether it is setting up, serving teas or making endless cakes. We couldn't do it without you.

The Social Team

Mission Report

In 2021 St John's continued to support the work of our CMS Partner Heather Johnstone who runs the Rehema Project in the Diocese of Mara in Tanzania. The project empowers the most disadvantaged women and children in the area to support themselves. Our Lent Appeal was donated to the project and a member of our congregation Sandra Godfrey raised funds by making attractive masks and has plans to make Platinum Jubilee headbands in 2022.

I am in regular email contact with Heather who appreciates our support in this way and we receive regular link letters from her too. 2021 was a very challenging year as she was forced to remain in South Africa with her family due to Covid and direct operations remotely. She returned to Tanzania on a tourist visa in February and has only just recently received the necessary documents from the Diocese to apply for her work and residency permits. At time of writing the project is struggling to survive as it has been very hard hit by the pandemic and customers, mainly expats, have still not returned to the café and shop so Heather is looking for ways to revitalise or reinvent the project so the Rehema team can once again support themselves and their families.

Mary Smith

Annual Deanery Synod Report

The Parish of St John's Copthorne is part of the East Grinstead Deanery, which along with other Parishes, covers an area from Cowden (Kent) in the east to Bewbush (Crawley) in the west and from Copthorne in the north to Ashurst Wood in the south, and includes all of the Crawley area. The East Grinstead Deanery in turn forms part of the Diocese of Chichester. At St John's we currently have two elected Lay Deanery Synod Representatives (Angela Vevers having moved away last year), who represent our Parish at Deanery Synod Meetings. Three meetings were held in 2021, chaired alternately by the Rural Dean Rev'd Andrew Hawken and the elected Lay Chairman Chris Bell. The purpose of these meetings is to provide a two-way communication channel from the General Synod through the Diocese and Deanery to the Parishes. This being an important platform to discuss and share ideas as we seek to promote the Gospel in our ever-changing communities and a chance to share local information between our Parishes.

Our first meeting was held on 23rd March on Zoom. Chris Bell (Lay Chairman) Introduced Rev'd Andrew Hawken as our new Rural Dean and Rev'd Angela Martin (former Rural Dean) as our new Archdeacon (these appointments having recently been made by Bishop Martin). The Chair changed to Rev'd Andrew Hawken to host the remainder of the meeting. Following a 'Said Eucharist' he introduced Reninca Hill who gave an inspired presentation on the youth, family and children's work at St John's Crawley. She announced the launch of the Deanery Hub for youth and children's work in the Crawley and East Grinstead area. The Hub is to be a shared resource for everyone with an interest in youth, family and children's work for this Deanery. The presentation included the shared planning and craft ideas to save resources and fresh creative free resources and websites available for work with children. It covered "kid's slots" and contributions to our Church Services, Kids matters, Youth Events, Outings, Summer Camps and Youth Alpha as well as Messy Church. It will also provide links to other organisations like Cubs and Brownies. It will provide details of free resources and material for the preparation of Sunday School classes and provide ways for Clergy to support Children's work. The first meeting of the Deanery Hub is to be held on Thursday 22nd April at 7:30pm and further Zoom meetings will take place once every half term on Zoom. When COVID restrictions allow, it will be held in person hosted at various venues around the Deanery.

Our second meeting was held on Monday 21st June at St Swithun's, East Grinstead – our first physical, socially distanced meeting for some time due to the relaxing of COVID restrictions. Once Rev'd Andrew opened the meeting with liturgy and prayer, an invited guest speaker, Rev'd Canon Rob Dillingham gave a presentation on Deanery and Parish Mission Planning. Rob explained the hard impact of COVID on church funds which have resulted in a 30 to 40% reduction in church incomes. As a result, many Dioceses have had to cut the number of clergy posts. Fortunately, Chichester is slightly better off than most, although we do have a high ratio of Clergy to churches. Having said that we need to focus on "Mission" not "Money" and costs have been reduced centrally.

In setting up a new Deanery Mission Action Plan, Rob explained that a four step process would be followed: -

- 1) Parish Assessment (to be made after Pentecost 2021)
- 2) Parish Mission Action Plans (MAP's) to be created (by 28th November 2021)
- 3) Deanery Assessment of Parish MAP's (by end January 2022)
- 4) Deanery Mission Action Plans to be created (by April 2022)

This process was fed back to Wim and the St John's Copthorne PCC following the meeting and a Parish MAP has been created, reviewed and agreed and communicated back to the Deanery and Diocese. Details of our Mission Action Plan can be found on our Church website.

Our **third meeting**, which always focusses on finance, was held on 30th September at St John's Copthorne. Following the welcome by Rev'd Wim Mauritz and opening prayers from Rev'd Andrew Hawken, Archdeacon Angela thanked everyone for their efforts within the Deanery given the difficult financial year we had all suffered. Angela then introduced our speakers Lesley Lynn and Gabrielle Higgins to present their financial review and budget for the forthcoming year.

Lesley, who had taken over just before the pandemic started, offered her thanks to the efforts of the Parishes in keeping up Parish Share contributions. At the end of August 2021, Deanery Parish Share was at 67% of budget which was much appreciated. Lesley emphasised the need to take a long term look when a new priest, curate or ordinand enters the Parish based on needs, demographics and what Parishes can give. The Diocese believes that we won't reach pre-pandemic levels of giving in 2022, but hopefully things will get back to normal in 2023 and the budget reflects this. In addition, as one would expect, Diocese spending is being strictly controlled – money is not being spent on anything irrelevant. Lesley summarised by explaining 79% of Diocese spending goes on Parish Ministry (essentially clergy costs) which is more or less balanced by 75% on income coming from Parish Share.

Finally, Gabrielle presented the new budget through leaflets that were shared. She echoed thanks for all Parishes for their generosity in 2021. This gave some of the details of the plans to manage to budget and bring things back to normal levels by end of 2023. Expenditure increases this year are limited generally to the Clergy Housing budget and savings are being sort in Curate and Ordinand training through reduction in numbers and part time training.

The focus is to minimise the risk of cuts to clergy posts. Gabrielle hopes that, post the pandemic, Parish giving may be able to rise in 2023.

Archdeacon Angela closed the finance part of the meeting with a call to ask what we can do to raise money back to normal levels as the pandemic fades and asked all parishes to think hard about how we support each other to maintain mission and outreach.

Andy Harpham and Ian Hornsby

Legal Documentation Relating to the Parish Hub (updated December 2020)

The documentation is filed in a box file in the Parish Office. In summary:

Worth Parish Council have been granted a 25 year lease on the use of the North Rooms under the following arrangement

- The Lease runs for 25 years, from 1st January 2015 to 31st December 2040.
- For the first 15 years the rent payable is £1 pa.
- On 1st January 2030 (15th Anniversary of the Lease) a premium rent of £10,000 is payable and the annual rent (payable quarterly) increases to 50 percent of the then market rent.
- On 1st January 2035 a full market rent becomes payable.
- Worth Parish Council are responsible for 23 percent of all Shared Service Costs as defined in Clause 8.2. (This is based on the respective floor areas.) St John's PCC's obligations in providing services are detailed in Clause 8.3.
- St John's PCC are obliged to provide Quarterly Accounts to Worth Parish Council.

A Section 119 Report was submitted in fulfilment of the Charities Act 2011 in support of the above arrangements.

Worth Parish Council have an annual renewable lease on the South Room. The annual rent (currently £6,400) is reviewable every three years from 2015. The 2018 review resulted in the agreed annual rent as above and was effective from May 2019. The next review will take place in 2021 to be effective from May 2022. In addition, Worth Parish Council pays a Proportionate Share (13%) of the Shared Service Costs as defined in the North Room Lease dated 10th June 2015. (Note that this is in addition to Worth Parish Council's share of the Shared Service Costs provided for under the North Room Lease Agreement.) Worth Parish Council has the option of converting the lease into a longer lease.

The Diocesan Board of Finance loan of £30k as at 31st December 2015 was repaid in full on 31st October 2016. A Loan Agreement for £25k dated

10th October 2016 was entered into between St John's PCC and Edward Michael Livesey and Rosalind Elaine Livesey. The Agreement allows for the repayment of the capital in five annual instalments, the first repayment falling due on 10th October 2017, with interest at 2% per annum, calculated on the loan balance on 30th June and 31st December each year. The PCC can repay the loan in full as it wishes with one month's notice. (Loan as at 31st December 2020 - £5k).

St John's PCC has granted a lease to the Trustees of the Copthorne Village Millennium Group (CVMG) for use of the Archive Room on the First Floor and access to storage in the loft for 15 years at £1pa. The Millennium Group undertakes to pay 10 percent of annual income excluding restricted funds towards the upkeep of the Parish Hub and to offset cost of publication of the work in the Copthorne Magazine. The Incumbent of St John's is a member of the CVMG Committee if s/he so wishes.

Service Agreements have been entered into for:

- Lift LOLER inspection;
- Lift Annual Service;
- Boiler annual service;
- Security annual checks;
- Water annual checks;
- Wiring and fire alarm annual checks;
- Portable Appliance Testing;
- Fire extinguishers.

Other Legal Agreements and Matters

TO BE UPDATED TO REFLECT POSITION AS AT DECEMBER 31 2020

The Incumbent of St John the Evangelist is a Trustee of the Delmar-Morgan Hall and of St John's Sunshine Pre-School.

The Incumbent is also a Foundation Governor of Copthorne CE Junior School.

Trustees Annual Report and Financial Report

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of

St. John the Evangelist, Copthorne

St. John's Church, Church Road, Copthorne, West Sussex RH10 3RD

Registered Charity no: 1155185

For the year ended 31 December 2021

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Website: www.copthornechurch.org

Incumbent: The Reverend Willem Mauritz,

The Vicarage, Church Road, Copthorne, RH10 3RU

Assistant Curate: Reverend Alexandra Wheeler

Independent Examiner: Fionna Thomson, 5 Abergavenny Gardens, Copthorne. RH10 3AW

Bankers: The Co-operative Bank plc PO Box 250, Delf House, Southway, Skelmersdale, WN8 6WT,

Trustees Annual Report for 2021

For

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St. John the Evangelist, Copthorne

Our aims and purposes as a charity

St John the Evangelist is part of the Diocese of Chichester and the Church of England. We believe that, as the parish church in Copthorne, our purpose is to play our role in reaching out in God's mission to our local community and beyond. The PCC of St John's is responsible for the upkeep of the charity's assets such as the main church building, the Parish Hub, offices, vestry and churchyard for the benefit of all parishioners. The PCC co-operates with the incumbent to pursue the church's vision of GROWING IN LOVE for God and each other. To enable this vision, we have focused on five key mission priorities that echo the Five Marks of Mission, developed by the Anglican Consultative Council which are:

- (1) To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom of God
- (2) To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
- (3) To respond to human need by loving service
- (4) To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation
- (5) To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth

Our vision is summarised by our mission statement "GROWING IN LOVE for God & each other".

What we planned to do to achieve our charitable objectives

When planning our activities for the year, the PCC considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on 'charities for the advancement of religion'. The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, fully recognising its duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

In 2021 we refreshed and simplified our vision and objectives to drive our activities for the coming 5 years. Our vision is now GROWING IN LOVE for God and each other:

- in our sharing of the GOOD NEWS.
- in our TEACHING AND NURTURING
- in our GENEROSITY
- in our speaking up for JUSTICE
- in our connection with CREATION

What we achieved and how we affected beneficiaries' lives

in our sharing of the GOOD NEWS

Our core priority is to maintain and grow our worshipping community and to reach out to our community and share the gospel message. This is foundational for growing and sustaining all our other priorities. During 2021 we have seen a recovery in the number of attendees in church due to the easing of Covid-19 restrictions. In the meantime as church, we continue to offer a mixed approach of physical services in the church building as well as reaching out to a wider audience through online streaming of

some of our services. Our regular services combined are now seeing attendance of around 145 and additionally streamed services are reaching further people online. However, numbers of people attending our special services, which are actively promoted to the community, are usually much higher. We have continued to re-imagine how to 'do' church by having up-to-date worship styles and communication means to invite and engage with all types of people. We have maintained weekly children's/ youth work programmes with a team of dedicated and inspiring leaders. We have also run Christianity courses such as Alpha both in person and online.

Our public worship activities have been of benefit to the wider community. All of our services are intentionally different in style but welcome a broad spectrum of people to join in worship, practical bible teaching, prayer, and generosity. Our Electoral Roll currently stands at 131. As lockdown restrictions have gradually lifted, we have cautiously and gradually returned some of our activities such as reintroducing music groups and choir, Holy Communion including the sharing of bread and later in the year congregational singing and procession of the cross. These elements of worship form an important part of our Christian worship and have been missed by many of our congregation members. To keep our more vulnerable members safe during the lifting of restrictions, we have maintained some areas of the church with socially distanced seating and ensured ventilation is maximised during all services. For larger services, where weather has allowed, we have used our churchyard rather than the church itself or allowed multiple 'sittings' of popular services. Much thought and effort has been put into maintaining risk assessments of all activities to ensure we maintain a Covid safe environment whilst balancing the need to return worship, as far as possible, to pre-Covid practices.

During 2021 we completed an upgrade to our AV systems to provide more flexible options for both modern and more traditional worship. As part of this, in addition to upgrading the sound system in church, we installed stage lighting and high-definition fixed cameras to enhance our online streaming. Furthermore, from summer onwards, we were able to re-introduce coffee at our main services which has been well received by all congregations. In response to the continued Covid threat we have temporarily installed two wooden serving booths to enable coffee to be provided from outside stations (rather than creating crowded areas inside the building). As a result of this change we are able to offer coffee a couple of mornings each week at school drop-off times to encourage parents to mingle in the churchyard and join our morning prayer in church.

We were able to have all key seasonal services such as Mothering Sunday, Easter, Harvest, Remembrance and Christmas which are very well attended by the wider community, including those who do not join us on a regular Sunday. During 2020 some of these were moved to be online only in response to restrictions in place at that time. In 2021, using the churchyard, we were able hold:

- A Remembrance Service which was supported by both the Copthorne Silver Band and the local uniformed organisations (who participated through readings and prayers to honour those who made the ultimate sacrifice in conflict).
- A Christingle Service supported by the Copthorne Silver Band with an attendance of over 200.



Our All Souls service in November was a particularly poignant, but very much appreciated, occasion where those who have lost loved ones joined for worship and the sharing of memories – this was held in Church but also available online for those unable to be in Church.



Additionally, for Christmas we held 2 traditional 'Nine Lessons and Carols' services led by the Choir and 2 family focused Crib services led by the church band. These services were duplicated to accommodate as many people as possible wishing to attend church without overcrowding. Our Christmas services were very well attended during 2021 with almost 500 attendees at the combination of these services. Many of these services were also available online for those who were unable to attend due to shielding, isolating or for any other reason.

In addition to Christmas church services, the choir again partnered with the Copthorne Silver Band to provide carol singing at locations around the village. These events were another opportunity to bring Christmas to the village and particularly for those who may otherwise not have had any opportunity for religious encounter over the Christmas period.

We have been very pleased to work with the staff of Copthorne C of E Junior school in bringing the pupils into the churchyard for the school's Christmas services. Other services have been prepared for assemblies in school as well as recordings used in the school for Remembrance Day. Our 'Open the Book' team have been able to visit the school on a limited number of occasions during this year but stand ready to return more regularly when the Covid situation allows them to do so.

Information about church activities is now very accessible, with our website detailing contacts and activities so we can share the vision of the church, bringing community and church together. The website has the capability to book into courses and events online, so reaching out to the local community.

Our church building is generally open during daylight hours on most days either for services or for anyone to use for moments of quiet reflection and a place of peace. We have also facilitated an online prayer board and a WhatsApp prayer group which is much appreciated by our church and village community.

St John's WhatsApp Prayer Group. 03.09.21
"The darkness cannot overcome the light. You Lord are THE light in the world. Your light penetrates the darkness and brings illumination to all who call on your name"

Our church continues to be appreciated by many as a location where life events are celebrated with joy and thanksgiving. Even during the pandemic, we have been able to facilitate some of these crucial events with 4 baptisms (including our first baptism during an outside service), 6 sets of ashes being

interred in the labyrinth and 9 funerals held in the church and churchyard during the year. There have not been any weddings in church this year, but our Curate officiated at a wedding at a local care home.

in our TEACHING AND NURTURING

We continue to see people taking part in our Prayer gatherings, Alpha courses and children's & youth groups. These have been adapted to run online where necessary and have been facilitated in church where restrictions have allowed, and attendees have felt this was their preferred option. In some instances, the use of online courses has enabled people who would otherwise have been unable to attend (e.g., parents with young children without available childcare) to participate on a regular basis.

During the summer we live streamed in church events from the New Wine festival, and this incorporated a wide range of activities for both adults and children, with many words of wisdom and encouragement from several charismatic and well-known Christian speakers.



We have seen an increase in our Christian input in teaching and corporate worship at our local school(s), through weekly Christian themed assemblies. Over the year, two adult Alpha courses have been held (partly in church and partly online). These have culminated in many people deepening or finding their faith in Jesus.

Home and Connect groups have been able to meet at some points during the year in person and have also met online, offering spiritual and practical nurture and support to their members. In addition to our Home/ Connect groups a bereavement group has met monthly in the Hub offering those recently (and not so recently) bereaved support and fellowship. Our prayer circle meets regularly (mainly on zoom) and offers prayer support to anyone in need in our community and beyond and our Curate liaises with local hospital chaplains in the event of one of our church members being admitted to hospital.

All church members are encouraged to use their gifts of ministry at services - leading, welcoming, serving, reading lessons and leading prayers: we are very grateful to the musicians and singers who freely give of their expertise at both the 9.30am and the 11.00 am services. We are also grateful to all who support the preparation and streaming of services online and to those who maintain the Covid safe environment in church through additional cleaning between services.

During 2021 we were able to re-introduce our monthly working parties and associated coffee mornings. This both assists us in the maintenance of the church and churchyard but also provides opportunity for an 'alternative' fellowship where informal discussions can take place. For some attendees this is the only form of 'church' they are comfortable with, and it gives us an opportunity to engage with those individuals and meet them where they are in their faith.

*in our **GENEROSITY***

We have set up a Pastoral Ministry Team, fronted by our Curate Alex Wheeler, that keeps in contact and visits those who are sick or lonely in our parish, and continues to provide pastoral engagements before, during and after our regular church services and at our online social events during the year.

During the winter of 2021 two local hotels were set-up to accommodate refugees relocated from Afghanistan and asylum seekers. Many of these individuals and family units have come to the UK to seek refuge from horrific circumstances in their home countries. We have been able to welcome many of them into our congregations, our working parties and other events.

In November we launched an international café – offering for some an opportunity for integration, for some the learning of the English language and for some purely the opportunity of a coffee, board games and some company. Each café incorporates Christian learning as well as additional resources (such as bibles) in several mother tongues.

In all these activities we have worked together with the management of the hotels and our local councils to ensure we make the best provision we can to meet any emerging need. In November the need for clothing and some toys was identified by the hotel management. A successful appeal was launched and this has resulted in ongoing donations of both winter coats and money (which has been used so far to fund underwear, socks and toys/ activities for children).

In addition to this we maintained our commitment to other charitable giving, by supporting local and overseas mission and development agencies and continued to sponsor, produce and distribute our local Copthorne Magazine to all village residents and by publishing it online.

An important part of our ministry is providing Communion to those too frail to attend church. During 2021 we have been able to reintroduce this to some degree with Covid safe measures in place. We have several 'care in the community' homes within the parish with residents and their carers attending the Sunday and weekday services, albeit in some instances online in the current climate.

We usually hold regular services at our two local care homes, Francis Court and Heatherley Cheshire Home with some care home staff joining with the residents for the service. Sadly, due to restrictions in place at these homes and Covid outbreaks our contact has been limited in this area but will resume fully once restrictions allow and it is safe to do so. During the autumn, we became aware of the need for a short notice wedding for a couple where one of the individuals was receiving end of life care at Francis Court. Our curate Alex was able to facilitate the various required licenses and ultimately to officiate at their wedding which was held at Francis Court in October.

We have continued to keep in touch with the more vulnerable in our community through our 'Connect' groups maintaining email/ WhatsApp/ telephone contact with all church members on a regular basis. We have published a weekly online newsletter to keep all members up to date with life at St John's and have additionally printed and delivered this newsletter to those unable to access materials online.

Social events are a key point of our ministry to the village, enabling church members to invite others to join us. We were delighted to be able to reintroduce some of these events during 2021. The Social team work hard planning events throughout the year which are well attended by both church members and the village and wider community. Highlights of 2021 included:

- Various quiz nights - including a Tearfund themed quiz raising both the profile and funds for the work of Tearfund.
- The return of Teas and refreshments at the annual Copthorne Carnival.
- The Flower and Produce Show/ Harvest Fair which we used to launch our wildflower seeding of an area of the churchyard and our mission to plant trees in and around the village – supported by our local Haskins Garden Centre.



Planned monthly giving continues to the Church Mission Society, for Heather Johnstone at the Rehema project in Tanzania, and Compassion, paying school fees for Ivan in Uganda. Ivan writes with his thanks for his education, his letters inspire us with his expressions of his faith in Jesus. The Rehema project supports abused women and children by giving them work in a craft workshop and café.

The house-to-house collection for Christian Aid Week was again suspended this year due to the global pandemic. However, St Johns organised delivery of envelopes and co-ordinated central collection points in the village as well as providing publicity, around the online campaign run by Christian Aid, in both the parish magazine and during our services. We continued to support The Children's Society, via home boxes and the collection at the open air Christingle service, and The Royal British Legion at our Remembrance Service.

The church is the village collection point for groceries and toiletries for Crawley Open House, sending them supplies to help them care for the local homeless. Towards the end of the year St John's has also become a partner in the 'Love Your Neighbour' campaign collecting for and promoting this organisation which is providing relief to those facing economic hardship in our local community.

Most of our events are advertised around the village and in our local Copthorne Magazine. The printing and delivery of the bi-monthly Copthorne Magazine is co-ordinated by the church and supported by local advertising. It contains news, events and reports on church and local activities with the 2000 + copies being delivered free to every home in Copthorne by a team of village and church volunteers.

in our speaking up for JUSTICE

We also set a priority that helps us to engage with global justice issues and to connect and support agencies that engage with refugees, migrants, asylum seekers and those that rescue people from modern

day slavery. As noted above we have been involved in supporting refugees and asylum seekers who currently reside within our community. Furthermore, we have been actively engaged with our local/county councils and the Home Office and have been advocating the rights of these individuals – for example in provision of education to the children amongst them.

We continue to be engaging and supporting with charities which are involved with the advocacy of the rights for the more vulnerable in the world such as Christian Aid and Tearfund.

in our connection with CREATION

We are committed to reduce our carbon footprint individually as well as a church Community and would like to become an accredited (Silver or Gold) Eco Church. In 2019 we attained the Bronze Award for Eco Church and recycle materials where possible. Once we are fully clear of Covid-19 restrictions we will be looking to renew the project to deliver improvements we desire and to work to attain the desired next level accreditation. As noted above, during 2021 we have set aside and seeded an area of our churchyard to be a ‘wildflower meadow’ and encourage nature to thrive. Furthermore, the focus of our Harvest celebration and Harvest Fair was on ‘caring for creation’ and launching our vision for planting 500 trees in and around the village in the coming years.

The Parish Hub, opened in 2015, is proving of great benefit to church and community alike, accommodating St. John’s Sunshine Pre-School, Friday Friends Teas, various sporting activities and exercise classes for all ages.

Building the Parish Hub has increased the footfall through the churchyard with many villagers enjoying the attractive space. Worth Parish Council leases the first floor of the Hub for offices under the terms of a grant and lease agreement with the rent of the upper meeting room covering our loan repayment of £5000 plus interest per annum. As planned, the final instalment to fully repay this loan was made in 2021.

The Parish Hub has a management team which ensures the smooth running of bookings, financial security and a high standard of upkeep. In addition to our volunteers, the church employs a caretaker and assistant and a Hub co-ordinator – who manages marketing, bookings and some of the day to day issues that arise.

The churchyard is well cared for, which is much appreciated by villagers. We are grateful to receive monies from the Payne Grave Deposit Fund, Faith Arnold Trust, our restricted Graveyard Fund and Worth Parish Council to help to pay for the upkeep of the churchyard. We employ 2 part time groundsman, who have been a great help keeping it tidy.

Most of the routine maintenance of the church and churchyard is done by volunteers from the church and community at the “First Saturday” work parties and coffee mornings. Team building and refreshments are an important part of these occasions. The churchyard remains in good order for the benefit of the village. Volunteer cleaners and flower arrangers keep the church tidy and attractive week by week.

During Advent this year the churchyard was decorated for Christmas with themes of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. Four installations were setup outside as well as inside the church. These displays were very well received by the community and saw visits to the churchyard and photos on Facebook posts (many from non-churchgoing members of the community).

PARISH MINISTRY COSTS

We significantly increased our contribution to our Parish Share for 2020 and following confirmation of our year-end financial position, we made a final payment to the diocese during 2021 to meet the full 2020 £74k Parish share requested. This was the first time this has been achieved for many years and we thank all donors to St John’s church who have enabled us to meet this significant milestone. We

continued to meet our Parish Share requested by the diocese again in 2021. For 2022 we have committed to meet the increased parish share request of just under £77k.

The PCC expresses a heartfelt thank you to all who give up their time in running different ministries, providing hospitality, care and outreach and to those looking after our premises. The hard work of each and every one is much appreciated.



Financial Review

- The total receipts on general unrestricted funds received were £167,062 (£178,224 for 2020) and are detailed in the Financial Report.
 - The planned giving through envelopes and bankers' orders has decreased for the general fund (mainly due to the fact 2020 included one off giving towards the new AV system). Gift aid is recovered regularly.
 - The PCC paid £74,035 to the Diocese towards ministry costs for the stipend, housing and pension costs of the clergy and church insurance as well as a standard sum for diocesan central costs, clergy training and a contribution to the national church fund. This represents the full cost of our Parish Share and has been achieved by encouraging the congregation to give generously.
 - St. John's has 11 part time employees. In 2016 we appointed Peninsula Business Services Ltd. for an initial period of 5 years to advise on HR, employment law, payroll and pension requirements to ensure we are compliant in these areas and have insurance to cover for any claims arising from a breach in legislation. This contract ended during 2021 and was not renewed. The PCC felt that, given the additional support now available in this area from the diocese, this service was no longer of significant benefit to the PCC.

Reserves Policy It is the PCC's policy:

- To maintain a Net asset balance on the general unrestricted funds (excluding property) which equates to approximately three months' worth of unrestricted payments as contingency against unforeseen situations. The closing balance of £36,878 at the end of 2021 did not achieve this and the PCC will need to continue to review this situation to ensure an adequate balance can be maintained.
- To invest legacies restricted as to their objects with the churches, charities and local authorities financial provider, CCLA, until such time that suitable beneficiaries are identified by the PCC.

Structure, Governance and Management.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is registered with the Charity Commission as required by the Charities Act 2011. Its governing document is the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956.

During the year the following served as members of the Parochial Church Council:

Ex Officio members

Incumbent:	The Rev'd Willem Mauritz
Assistant Curate:	The Rev'd Alexandra Wheeler
Wardens:	Mr David Hornsby Mrs Gillian Hodsdon

<i>Elected Members:</i>	Mrs Lesley Dawson	Until 2022
	Mrs Jan Leftley	Until 2022
	Mr Michael Livesey	Until 2023
	Mr Paul Simmons	Until December 2021
	Mr Andrew Taylor	Until 2022
	Mr Eric Trevett	Until 2022
	Mrs Susan Williams	Until 2022
	Mrs Sarah Smith	Until May 2021
	Mr Nigel Cramp	Until 2024
	Mr Jonathan Brueton	From May 2021 (until 2024)

<i>Appointed Members:</i>	Mr Edward Gray	Treasurer
	Mrs Cathy Sexton	Secretary

<i>Co-opted Member:</i>	Mr Eddie Redfern	Safeguarding Officer
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<i>Deanery Synod:</i>	Mr Andrew Harpham	Until 2023
	Mr Ian Hornsby	Until 2023
	Mrs Angela Vevers	Until March

The PCC has appointed Eddie Redfern as Safeguarding Officer, who ensures he is up-to-date with Diocesan Safeguarding Policies and that the PCC is advised of any changes. In addition, he maintains the DBS register of those working with children and vulnerable adults or in leadership roles at St. John's. We have recruited more youth workers, leaders and adult carers this year. We are enrolled on the Simple Quality Protects system with the diocese to maintain best practice.

Membership of the PCC is determined under the Church Representation Rules and consists of certain ex-officio members (the incumbent, curate, readers licensed to officiate in the church, the Churchwardens), members of the Deanery, Diocesan or General synods and 11 members of the church who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). Church members are warmly encouraged to stand for election to the PCC and we try to ensure a balance of skills and experience where possible.

This Trustee's Annual Report was approved by the PCC and signed on their behalf by Rev'd W Mauritz.

Signed

Date

The Parochial Church Council of St John the Evangelist, Copthorne
Statement of Financial Activities
For the year ended 31 December 2021

	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund/s	Endowed Fund/s	Total Funds 2021	<i>Total Funds 2020</i>	Notes
	£	£	£	£	£	
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies	109,684	1,160	-	110,844	138,849	
Charitable activities	10,208	-	-	10,208	6,915	
Other trading activities	46,488	-	-	46,488	36,286	
Investments	682	1,933	-	2,614	2,697	
Other receipts	-	-	-	-	-	
Total income	167,062	3,093	-	170,154	184,747	2
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	25	-	-	25	30	
Charitable activities	120,200	2,951	-	123,152	118,802	
Other trading activities	40,057	104	-	40,161	39,777	
Other expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	
Total expenditure	160,282	3,055	-	163,337	158,609	3
Net gains (or losses) on investments	-	-	12,670	12,670	12,059	11
Net income or (net expenditure)	6,780	38	12,670	19,487	38,198	
Transfers between funds	(995)	995	-	-	-	10
Other recognised gains/(losses):						
Gains/(losses) on revaluation of fixed assets	-	-	-	-	-	11
Other gains/(losses)	-	-	-	-	(134,746)	
<i>Reconciliation of funds:</i>						
Net movement in funds	5,785	1,033	12,670	19,487	(96,548)	
Total funds brought forward	463,608	212,183	88,867	764,658	843,200	
Total funds carried forward	469,393	213,216	101,537	784,145	746,652	

The Parochial Church Council of St John the Evangelist, Copthorne
Balance Sheet
As at 31 December 2021

	Total Funds 2021	<i>Total Funds 2020</i>	Notes
	£	£	
Intangible assets	-	-	
Tangible assets	606,973	588,777	
Heritage assets	-	-	
Endowed investments	101,537	88,867	
Total fixed assets	708,509	677,644	11
Stocks	-	-	
Debtors	8,620	21,880	13
Investments	-	-	
Cash at bank and in hand	77,759	81,066	
Total current assets	86,379	102,946	
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	(10,743)	(15,932)	14
Net current assets or (liabilities)	75,636	87,014	
Total assets less current liabilities	784,145	764,658	
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	-	-	15
Provisions for liabilities	-	-	
Total net assets or (liabilities)	784,145	764,658	
The funds of the charity:			
Endowment funds	101,537	88,867	
Restricted income funds	213,216	212,183	
Unrestricted funds	469,393	463,608	
Revaluation reserve	-	-	
Total unrestricted funds	469,393	463,608	
Total charity funds	784,146	764,658	17

This Financial Report for the year ended 31st December 2021, including the notes following, was approved by the PCC and signed on its behalf by The Revd. Willem Mauritz.

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Date

The Parochial Church Council of St John the Evangelist, Copthorne

Notes to the Financial Report

1 Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS102. The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and the Church Accounting Regulations 2006, in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the current Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities, (SORP (FRS 102)).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention as modified by the inclusion of investments at market value. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their affiliation to another body, nor those which are informal gatherings of church members.

Funds accounting

Funds held by the PCC are:

Unrestricted funds - general funds which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes.

Designated funds - monies set aside by the PCC out of unrestricted funds for specific future purposes or projects.

Restricted funds - a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest; b) donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of the year is carried forward as a balance on that fund.

Endowment funds - funds for which the capital must be maintained; only income arising from the investment of the endowment may be used, either as restricted or unrestricted funds, depending on the purpose set out in the terms of the original endowment.

Income and endowments

All income and endowments, accounted for without deduction for any costs of receivability, are recognised when there is evidence of entitlement, receipt is probable, and the amount can be measured reliably.

Donations and legacies

Collections are recognised when received.

Planned giving receivable is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement, receipt is probable, and the amount accords with the Gift Aid declaration or other record of intention to donate.

Gift aid recovered is recognised when the income to which it is attached is recognised.

Grants and legacies are recognised when the formal offer in writing of the funding, is received by the PCC.

Charitable activities

Statutory fees for weddings and funerals are recognised when the office occurs. Rental fees are recognised in accordance with the rental agreement, when receipt is probable.

Other trading activities

Trading activities are where income is receivable in return for selling goods or providing services. Income from trading is recognised either: a - when received, or b - in the case of concerts: for the year in which the event occurs, irrespective of date of receipt. Advance bookings are included in creditors until the concert has taken place.

Magazine advertising income is recognised when the magazine is published.

Rents from property are recognised in accordance with the rental agreements, when receipt is probable.

Investment income

Dividends are accounted for when due and payable. Interest entitlements are accounted for as they accrue.

The Parochial Church Council of St John the Evangelist, Cophorne

Notes to the Financial Report

All other income

All other income is recognised in accordance with the above overall policy.

Gains and losses on investments

Realised gains are recognised when the investments are sold.

Unrealised gains and losses are accounted for on revaluation at 31 December.

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement, payment is probable, and the amount can be measured reliably.

Grants

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded where the award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

Church activities

The diocesan parish contribution is accounted for on an annual basis, reflecting the allocation set by our Deanery. Any parish contribution unpaid at 31 December is provided for in these accounts as an operational (though not a legal) liability and is shown as a creditor in the balance sheet.

Fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets

Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from the accounts by s.10(2) of the Charities Act 2011.

Movable church furnishing held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal, are accounted as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the church's inventory which can be inspected but are not included in the financial statements. For other property acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore the cost of such assets is not stated in the financial statements.

All expenditure on consecrated or beneficed buildings and individual items costing under £2000 are written off in the year they were incurred.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated to write down the cost of tangible fixed assets, excluding freehold properties, over their expected useful lives. The rates generally applicable are:

Land and buildings	Nil
Ride on lawnmower	33%
Fixtures and fittings	25%
Audio visual equipment	25%
Office equipment	33%

No depreciation is provided on freehold buildings as the useful economic life of these assets exceeds 50 years and residual values so high that potential depreciation would be immaterial. It is the PCC's policy to maintain these assets in a continual state of sound repair. Resulting from regular impairment reviews, provision will be made if there has been any permanent diminution in value.

Investments

Investments are stated at market value at the balance sheet date.

Current Assets

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31 December in respect of fees, rents or other income are shown as debtors, less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectible.

Short-term deposits include cash held on deposit either with the CBF Church of England Funds, or at the bank.

The Parochial Church Council of St John the Evangelist, Copthorne

Notes to the Financial Report

2 Analysis of income and endowments

	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund/s	Total Funds 2021	<i>Total Funds 2020</i>	Notes
	£	£	£	£	
Planned giving (excl. tax refunds)	60,523	335	60,858	69,102	
Loose cash collections	10,246	-	10,246	10,033	
Other special appeals	1,638	-	1,638	4,085	
Gift Aid recoverable	26,176	75	26,251	18,884	
Legacies	10,000	-	10,000	6,000	
Grants	1,100	750	1,850	30,745	
Donations and legacies	£109,684	£1,160	£110,844	<i>£138,849</i>	
Fees for weddings & funerals	10,208	-	10,208	6,915	
Charitable activities	£10,208	-	£10,208	<i>£6,915</i>	
Fund raising	2,713	-	2,713	11,848	
Parish hub hiring fees	21,902	-	21,902	36,816	
Magazine advertising fees	11,671	-	11,671	12,286	
Other trading activities	£46,488	-	£46,488	<i>£36,286</i>	
Bank & CBF deposit interest	682	1,933	2,614	2,697	
CBF investment fund dividend	-	-	-	-	
Investments	£682	£1,933	£2,614	<i>£2,697</i>	
Other receipts	-	-	-	-	
Total income and endowments on all funds	£167,062	£3,093	£170,154	<i>£184,747</i>	

The Parochial Church Council of St John the Evangelist, Copthorne

Notes to the Financial Report

3 Analysis of expenditure

	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund/s	Total Funds 2021	<i>Total Funds 2020</i>	Notes
	£	£	£	£	
Special appeals costs	-	-	-	-	
Stewardship costs	-	-	-	-	
Other fundraising costs	25	-	25	30	
Cost of raising funds	£25	-	£25	£30	
Charitable grants and donations	1,751	-	1,751	1,578	4
Mission & evangelism costs	1,508	-	1,508	2,136	
Diocesan parish share	74,035	-	74,035	74,000	
Clergy and other people's expenses	784	-	784	433	
Salaries and honoraria incl NI	12,611	1,609	14,220	17,854	
Upkeep of services	3,091	-	3,091	672	
Church running costs	15,964	-	15,964	14,696	
Church maintenance and repair	905	266	1,171	1,936	
Upkeep of churchyard	45	1,076	1,121	1,820	
Parsonage costs	3,167	-	3,167	3,427	
Depreciation	6,065	-	6,065	-	11
Governance	275	-	275	250	9
Cost of charitable activities	£120,200	£2,951	£123,152	£118,802	
Parish hub running costs	23,880	-	23,880	25,974	
Wedding & funeral fees & costs	3,700	-	3,700	2,901	
Parish magazine costs	11,228	-	11,228	10,154	
Fundraising costs	1,249	-	1,249	448	
Support costs	-	-	-	-	
Loan interest	-	104	104	299	
New build/major works church	-	-	-	-	
Cost of other trading activities	£40,057	£104	£40,161	£39,777	
Total expended on all funds	£160,282	£3,055	£163,337	£158,609	

The Parochial Church Council of St John the Evangelist, Copthorne

Notes to the Financial Report

4 Missionary and charitable giving

	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund/s	Endowed Fund/s	Total Funds 2021	<i>Total Funds 2020</i>	Notes
	£	£	£	£	£	
<i>Church Mission Society - Rehema</i>	930	-	-	930	992	
<i>Royal British Legion</i>	-	-	-	-	-	
<i>Water Aid</i>	-	-	-	-	67	
<i>Diocese induction</i>	-	-	-	-	-	
<i>Christian aid</i>	-	-	-	-	-	
<i>Compassion UK</i>	411	-	-	411	377	
<i>Tearfund</i>	400	-	-	400	142	
<i>Other charities</i>	10	-	-	10	-	
	1,751	-	-	1,751	1,578	

5 Staff costs

	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund/s	Endowed Fund/s	Total Funds 2021	<i>Total Funds 2020</i>	Notes
	£	£	£	£	£	
Remuneration						
<i>Wages, salaries, tax, NI and pension costs</i>	12,611	1,609	-	14,220	35,798	
<i>Redundancy and payments in lieu of notice</i>	-	-	-	-	3,189	
	12,611	1,609	-	14,220	38,987	

No person received remuneration in excess of £60,000.

6 Payments to PCC members

Mrs L Dawson received £450 in her role as vergers. Mr N Cramp received £3,340 as an employee of the church.

Other payments were made to PCC members in the year for reimbursement of expenses incurred on behalf of the PCC:

- Clergy support: Council tax £2,821, water £346, travel and other miscellaneous expenses £784.
- Three PCC members received reimbursement for administrative, fundraising and maintenance expenses amounting in total to £518.

The Parochial Church Council of St John the Evangelist, Copthorne

Notes to the Financial Report

7 Related party transactions

At 31 December 2021 the PCC, of which Mr E Livesey is a trustee, owed Mr & Mrs E Livesey £nil (2020: £5,000).

8 Transactions with related charities

St John's Sunshine Pre School is a separate charity, a related party to this PCC. During 2021 £5,108 (2020: £1,385) was paid to St John's Church from St John's Sunshine Pre School for use of the Parish Hub and for parish magazine adverts.

9 Governance

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Fund/s	Endowed Fund/s	Total Funds 2021	<i>Total Funds 2020</i>	Notes
	£	£	£	£	£	
<i>Independent examination</i>	275			275	250	
	275	-	-	275	250	

10 Transfers between funds

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Fund/s	Endowed Fund/s	Total Funds 2021	<i>Total Funds 2020</i>	Notes
	£	£	£	£	£	
<i>Transfer for building loan</i>	-	-	-	-	-	
<i>Transfer for churchyard expenses</i>	(995)	995				
	(995)	995	-	-	-	

The Parochial Church Council of St John the Evangelist, Copthorne

Notes to the Financial Report

11 Fixed assets

a Investments

	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund/s	Endowed Fund/s	Total Funds 2021	Notes
	£	£	£	£	
Market value 1 January 2021	-	-	88,867	88,867	
Disposals at carrying value	-	-	-	-	
Purchases at cost	-	-	-	-	
Net gains and revaluation	-	-	12,670	12,670	
Market value 31 December 2021	-	-	£101,537	£101,537	

b Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings	Mower equipment	Audio visual equipment	Total fixed assets	Notes
	£	£	£	£	
Cost or valuation					
At 1 January 2021	588,777	2,385	-	591,162	
Additions	-	-	24,261	24,261	
Disposals	-	-	-	-	
Revaluation	-	-	-	-	
At 31 December 2021	588,777	2,385	24,261	615,423	
Charge for impairment					
At 1 January 2021	-	(2,385)	-	(2,385)	
Additions	-	-	(6,065)	(6,065)	
Disposals	-	-	-	-	
Revaluation	-	-	-	-	
At 31 December 2021	-	(2,385)	(6,065)	(8,450)	
Net book amounts					
At 31 December 2021	588,777	-	18,196	606,973	
<i>At 31 December 2020</i>	<i>588,777</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>588,777</i>	

The freehold land and buildings comprise the Parish Hub building. The historical cost of this property was £588,777. In the opinion of the PCC its current market value is estimated to be in excess of the historical cost.

The Parochial Church Council of St John the Evangelist, Copthorne

Notes to the Financial Report

12 Net assets by fund

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Fund/s	Endowed Fund/s	Total Funds 2021	Total Funds 2020	Notes
	£	£	£	£	£	
Fixed assets for church use	428,509	178,464	-	606,973	588,777	
Investment fixed assets	-	-	101,537	101,537	88,867	
Current assets (except cash)	8,620	-	-	8,620	21,880	
Cash at bank and on deposit	39,002	38,757	-	77,759	81,066	
Current liabilities	(10,743)	-	-	(10,743)	(15,932)	
Long term liabilities	-	-	-	-	-	
	£465,387	£217,221	£101,537	£784,145	£764,658	

13 Debtors

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Fund/s	Endowed Fund/s	Total Funds 2021	Total Funds 2020	Notes
	£	£	£	£	£	
Income tax recoverable	5,676	-	-	5,676	8,089	
Prepayments and accrued income	-	-	-	-	11,958	
Other debtors	2,944	-	-	2,944	1,834	
	£8,620	-	-	£8,620	£21,880	

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Fund/s	Endowed Fund/s	Total Funds 2021	Total Funds 2020	Notes
	£	£	£	£	£	
Deferred income	-	-	-	-	2,170	
Accruals for utilities and other costs	6,776	-	-	6,776	7,826	
Other creditors	3,967	-	-	3,967	5,936	
	£10,743	-	-	£10,743	£15,932	

The Parochial Church Council of St John the Evangelist, Copthorne

Notes to the Financial Report

15 Creditors: amounts falling due after one year

	Unrestricted <u>Funds</u>	Restricted <u>Fund/s</u>	Endowed <u>Fund/s</u>	Total Funds <u>2021</u>	Total Funds <u>2020</u>	Notes
	£	£	£	£	£	
Other creditors	-	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-	

16 Comparatives for the statement of financial activities

	Unrestricted <u>Fund</u>	Restricted <u>Fund/s</u>	Endowed <u>Fund/s</u>	Total Funds <u>2020</u>
	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	134,184	4,665	-	138,849
Charitable activities	6,915	-	-	6,915
Other trading activities	36,286	-	-	36,286
Investments	839	1,858	-	2,697
Other receipts	-	-	-	-
Total income	178,224	6,523	-	184,747
Expenditure on:				-
Raising funds	30	-	-	30
Charitable activities	107,753	11,048	-	118,801
Other trading activities	39,478	299	-	39,777
Other expenditure	-	-	-	-
Total expenditure	147,231	11,347	-	158,608
Net gains (or losses) on investments	-	-	5,699	5,699
Net income or (net expenditure)	30,993	(4,824)	5,699	31,838
Transfers between funds	(6,307)	6,307	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses):				
Gains/(losses) on revaluation of fixed assets	-	-	-	-
Other gains/(losses)	-	-	-	-
<i>Reconciliation of funds:</i>				
Net movement in funds	24,686	1,483	5,699	31,838
Total funds brought forward	438,952	210,700	83,168	732,820
Total funds carried forward	463,638	212,183	88,867	764,658

The Parochial Church Council of St John the Evangelist, Cophorne

Notes to the Financial Report

17 Statement of funds

Fund income and expenditure and final balances are as follows:

	Balances b/fwd 1 Jan 2021	Income	Expenditure	Transfers, other gains and losses	Balances c/fwd 31 Dec 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Faith Arnold trust	48,514	-	-	6,940	55,454
Payne grave fund	300	-	-	-	300
Churchyard trust	40,053	-	-	5,730	45,783
Total of all endowed funds	88,867	-	-	12,670	101,537
Fabric fund	3,359	1,059	(266)	-	4,152
Annex fund	50,964	403	(168)	-	51,199
Building fund	157,860	5	-	-	157,865
Churchyard fund	-	1,627	(2,622)	995	-
Total of all restricted funds	212,183	3,094	(3,056)	995	213,216
General fund	48,421	167,062	(160,282)	(995)	54,206
Designated building fund	410,313	-	-	-	410,313
Legacy fund	4,874	-	-	-	4,874
Total of all unrestricted funds	463,608	167,062	(160,282)	(995)	469,393
Total funds	£764,658	£170,156	£(163,338)	£12,670	£784,146

Explanation of funds

Endowed funds are required by the donors to be invested and the income spent on specific objectives

The Faith Arnold trust is a permanent endowment, invested in CBF Investment Fund shares, which requires the income to be spent on the maintenance and improvement of the church building.

The Payne grave fund is a permanent endowment, invested in CBF Investment Fund shares, which requires the income to be spent on the maintenance of the churchyard.

The Churchyard trust is a permanent endowment, invested in CBF Investment Fund shares, which requires the income to be spent on the churchyard and outdoor areas.

Restricted funds are not invested permanently but are to be spent within reasonable timescales.

The Fabric Fund is restricted to the maintenance and improvement of the church building.

The Annex fund is restricted to the *Link* project to extend the church building, increase the space available for worship and provide a more flexible and functional space. The Building fund is restricted and was used to fund the development of the church office.

The Churchyard Fund is restricted to the maintenance of the churchyard and outdoor areas.

Unrestricted funds are not subject to any donor restrictions and can be spent as the PCC decides. The unrestricted fund includes amounts designated for the building of the Parish Hub, and also an unrestricted legacy which has been set aside for specific uses to be determined by the PCC.